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January 6, 1986

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Alberta Small Grain Dealers Guarantee Program announced

Alberta Agriculture Minister LeRoy Fjordbotten announced on December 20, 1985 that the Alberta government has approved a guarantee program to assist Alberta's small grain dealers in overcoming difficulties created by the Canadian Grain Commission's demands for 100 per cent security against all grain transaction liabilities.

The provincial government will provide guarantees for a portion of the small grain dealers' standard operating line of credit which now must be used to provide security to the Canadian Grain Commission.

The concept was developed by the Alberta Grain Commission in cooperation with banking officials and small grain dealers.

Under the Alberta Small Grain Dealers Guarantee Program, those operating under a grain dealers' licence will be eligible to obtain a line-of-credit guarantee of up to the last 80 per cent of their bonding requirements as established by the Canadian Grain Commission.

For a fee of one per cent per year, the Alberta government will provide the line-of-credit guarantee on behalf of a small grain dealer to the dealer's banker. Small grain dealers will be required to follow prudent hedging procedures to offset risk.

For the period ending July 31, 1986, the program will limit total guarantees to all eligible dealers to $9 million. Another $2 million will be made available for the period August 1, 1986 to July 31, 1987 for a total of $11 million, and an additional $2 million for a total of

(cont'd)

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$13 million will be added for the period August 1, 1987 to July 31, 1989. A maximum guarantee per dealer will be established.

" Essentially, we developed this program to ensure that Alberta's small grain dealers can continue to provide additional opportunities for marketing Alberta grain," said the minister.

" The 100 per cent security being demanded by the Canadian Grain Commission of small grain dealers to cover all grain transaction liabilities has placed these dealers at a competitive disadvantage compared to the larger line elevator companies who are not required to provide 100 per cent cash security," he added. " This policy has saddled small grain dealers in Alberta with a credit burden that has slowly but surely eroded both their ability to do business and their ability to grow."

Part of the problem, indicated the minister, is the unwillingness of Canada's bonding industry to provide more than $50,000 to an individual company. As a result, small grain dealers must post a significant portion of their operating lines of credit from commercial banks as bonds with the Canadian Grain Commission, which leaves them short of funds to conduct grain trading, the reason the dealers are in business in the first place.

30

Contact:

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January 6, 1986

For immediate release

1985 crop production in review

Widespread drought conditions, coupled with a cool summer and early frosts, were largely responsible for decreased production and yields in 1985, says Rodney Dlugos of Alberta Agriculture's statistics branch.

Although acreage seeded to the six principal crops had increased about three per cent, total production was estimated at 11.6 million tonnes, down about four per cent from 1984.

Wheat production decreased about four per cent with yields dropping from 24.6 bushels per acre in 1984 to 23.0 bushels per acre in 1985. A seven per cent decrease in acreage seeded to canola, along with a four per cent reduction in yield per acre, were responsible for a 10 per cent decline in total production. Provincial barley yields dropped from 41.0 bushels per acre in 1984 to 40.4 bushels per acre in 1985, causing a one per cent reduction in total output.

High rates of winterkill were reported in fall rye and winter wheat in the spring of 1985. This fall, acres seeded to winter wheat were reduced to 420,000 acres, down from 550,000 acres in 1984. Fall rye plantings declined by eight per cent to 220,000 acres in 1985.

Hay production was down 27 per cent from last year with estimated yields dropping from 1.79 tons per acre in 1984 to 1.31 tons per acre in 1985. The low hay yields and poor pastures over the summer are expected to cause local feed shortages.

Mr. Dlugos says that even though 1985 has been a trying year for many, generally good fall moisture conditions have Alberta producers looking forward to a more prosperous 1986.

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Contact:

Rodney Dlugos
427-4011

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Scrooge influences Wilson's minimum tax

Like Scrooge, federal Finance Minister Michael Wilson decided not to present taxpayers with a Christmas gift this year. In his May 23, 1985 budget he gave the taxpayers a Cadillac present, being the $500,000 lifetime capital gains exemption. On December 4, 1985 Wilson recalled the Cadillac and presented the taxpayers with his cut-down version, being the alternative minimum tax (AMT), a mere pittance in comparison.

Under the capital gains exemption, all capital gains incurred by a farmer were exempt from income tax subject to the $500,000 limit. The proposed minimum personal income tax scheme, will tax the previously untaxed half of all capital gains under a special formula, where the net effect will be an approximate 12.5 per cent tax rate. This has greatly complicated tax filing. As one tax professional stated, "It's a tremendous windfall for the tax profession." The following questions and answers, prepared by Merle Good and Alex Ostapiuk of Alberta Agriculture's farm business management branch, will attempt to illustrate the effect of the minimum personal income tax proposal.

1. What is the minimum personal income tax?

The alternative minimum tax (AMT), which comes into effect in 1986 is, according to Finance Minister Wilson, "a response to a growing public concern about the number of high-income Canadians who pay little or no personal income tax in any one year through the use of various tax deductions and incentives." He further adds that the minimum tax will prevent high-income individuals from using one or more tax incentives to pay little or no tax in any one year.

(cont'd)

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Scrooge influences Wilson's minimum tax (cont'd)

What this actually means, says Merle Good, is that individuals who are earning more than $40,000 of net income for tax purposes plus their personal tax exemptions, will have to do two tax calculations - the regular tax calculation plus the alternative minimum tax calculation.

2. How does the proposal work?

The way this minimum tax works is best illustrated by the following table.

* NET INCOME for REGULAR TAX (page 2 of the tax return)			------
ADD:	Half of the capital gain that is excluded from taxable income	------	
	Capital dividends received	------	
	RRSP and RPP contributions (excludes transfers)	------	
	Half of excluded amount of bonus interest on CSB	------	
	Forward averaging withdrawal	------	
	Rental losses due to CCA on Canadian films or MURB's	------	
	Other additions	------	
	Total additions		------
LESS:	Medical expenses, charitable donations, disability and Education deduction	-------	
	Capital gains exemption claimed	-------	
	Non-capital losses of other years	------	
	Capital losses of other years	------	
	Forward averaging deduction	------	
	$40,000 minimum tax exemption	------	
	Personal exemptions	------	
	Other subtractions	------	
	Total subtractions		------
	Minimum taxable income		= = = =
LESS:	Tax on minimum taxable income		
	Federal tax rate of 17% in 1986		
	Provincial tax rate of 43.5% of federal tax in 1986.		
	TOTAL: 1986 combined federal and provincial rate is 24.4%.		

* Net income includes half of the capital gains.

(cont'd)

For farmers the big inclusion is the previously untaxed half of capital gains into the calculation. A more detailed explanation on the effect of this inclusion is explained under question number three.The other main income areas affected are the non-deductibility of the following:

a) The $1,000 interest dividend deduction

b) Deductions transferred from one spouse to other dependants

c) Contributions to Registered Retirement Savings Plan

d) The dividend investment tax credit

e) The non-refundable portion of investment tax credit claimed.

3. How does the proposal specifically affect capital gains?

As explained earlier in the article, it appears that capital gains eligible for the exemption will now be taxed at a prescribed rate. To best illustrate the "new rules", the following example is provided. In the example, the tax liability due is calculated as if the minimum tax did not exist, and this is compared to the tax due under the new proposal.

Assumptions: Mr. Edwards, a farmer, has decided to sell a half section to his neighbor for $200,000 on January 15, 1986. The valuation day value was $40,000 for a capital gain of $160,000. For illustrative purposes, assume Mr. Edwards has $40,000 in net farm income. To simplify the illustration, personal exemptions are ignored.

Sale:	Sale price	200,000
	V-Day value	40,000
	Capital gain	160,000
	Taxable capital gain	80,000 (A)
	Non taxable capital gain	80,000 (B)
	Elig. taxable capital gain Exemption:	80,000 (A)

(cont'd)

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Scrooge influences Wilson's minimum tax (cont'd)

Results:

Regular Tax Calculation		New Alternative Minimum Tax		
Farm Income.....	40,000	Net income from reg. return	120,000	
Add: Tax. capital gain (A)	80,000	Add: Non-tax. cap. gain	80,000	(B)
Net income.....	120,000	Less:Cap. gain exempt.claimed	80,000	(A)
Less: personal exemptions....	0	40,000 min.tax exempt.	40,000	
Tax.cap. gains exemption	80,000	Personal exemptions	0	
Taxable income	40,000	Taxable income	80,000	
Tax liability - federal	8,763	Tax liability fed.@ 17%	13,600	
Tax liability - provincial	3,812	Tax liability prov.@ 43.5%	5,916	
TOTAL TAX DUE:	$ 12,575	TOTAL TAX DUE:	$ 19,516	

As can be seen, under the regular tax calculation, the capital gains triggered is cancelled by the capital gains exemption. Under the alternative minimum tax rules, the previously UNTAXED Portion (B) is added to income and then taxed at approximately 25 per cent (federal and provincial rates).

Note calculations below:

$$\frac{\text{Tax due}}{\text{Capital gain}} \times 100 = \frac{19{,}516}{80{,}000} \times 100 = 24.4\%$$

If this tax liability is presented as a total of the entire capital gains eligible for the $500,000 exemption, the effective rate is approximately 12.5 per cent.

$$\frac{\text{Tax due}}{\text{Capital gain}} \times 100 = \frac{19{,}516}{160{,}000} \times 100 = 12.19\%$$

SUMMARY:

1. On a capital gain that is eligible for the $500,000 exemption, the effective tax rate is 12.5%, if AMT net income is greater than $40,000.

(cont'd)

Scrooge influences Wilson's minimum tax (cont'd)

2. On a capital gain that is not eligible or exceeds the $500,000 exemption, the effective tax rate is 25% for individuals with AMT net income greater than $40,000.
3. The actual tax rates will vary due to other income, personal exemptions and the $40,000 minimum tax exemption. To calculate the effects on a personal basis, a regular tax return and a new minimum income tax calculation will be necessary.
4. Are there any averaging provisions available?

Yes, there is a carry-forward provision for the minimum tax proposal. The provision states that the amount the minimum tax exceeds the regular tax may be carried forward for up to seven years, and be applied to the extent that regular tax exceeds the minimum tax calculation.

In simple English, what does this mean? Assuming Mr. Edwards' 1987 net taxable income (after exemptions) is $25,000 and under the regular tax calculation a $6,824 tax bill results, under the minimum tax calculation the tax liability is NIL. Since the regular tax exceeds his minimum tax the difference of $6,824 can be carried forward from the 1986 minimum tax and applied against his 1987 regular tax bill.

5. Is there any special rule for funds that are received over a period of time?

The minister stated that "special transitional reserve provisions will be available for qualifying farm property, in order to assist farmers realizing large one-time capital gains." What this actually means is anyone's guess. It appears that if the farm was sold over time and the capital gains spread over a number of years, the $40,000 basic exemption will help average the tax bill. However, if the farm is sold for cash, there may be no special reserve provision except the general carry forward rules.

(cont'd)

Scrooge influences Wilson's minimum tax (cont'd)

CONCLUSION:

According to the government, the minimum tax is to "ensure that high income Canadians will pay a fair share of tax in each year." There is nothing wrong with this goal, however, it does not make sense for the government to offer a $500,000 exemption for capital gains that was previously taxed under the old system and then apply a minimum tax to capital gains that was previously non-taxable. As this article is based on only preliminary information, please consult with your accountant for further details and clarification.

Regretfully, complexity in tax matters is becoming the norm rather than the exception.

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For further information contact:

Merle Good at 556-4237 or
Alex Ostapiuk at 556-4235
Farm business management branch

January 6

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Gulf Canada Citizenship Study Award

Colin Becker of Rimbey is the recipient of the first ever Gulf Canada Citizenship Study Award for Alberta.

This is a new scholarship to be given out annually to a 4-H'er in each of the 10 provinces.

Colin received the $1,000 award for his essay on citizenship. In addition to his many achievements in the Rimbey West 4-H Beef Club, Colin is a volunteer with senior citizens and assists in instructing C.P.R in his community.

His 4-H public speaking helped him win second place in a United Nations and International Affairs speak-off in 1984. He was also involved with a north-south debate and symposium for youth in May of this year.

In his last year of high school, Colin was president of the students union, an active member of the student peer support group, and initiated the "SafeGrad" program, with the help of the R.C.M.P and the Rimbey Lions Club.

(cont'd)

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Gulf Canada Citizenship Study Award (cont'd)

Colin is taking an advertising sales program at S.A.I.T. this year.

For more information on the Gulf Canada Citizenship Study Award and other 4-H scholarships, contact your regional 4-H specialist, district home economist, or the 4-H branch of Alberta Agriculture in Edmonton.

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Contact:

Elizabeth Webster
427-2541

January 6, 1986

For immediate release

Stored tough and damp grain may spoil

Much of the grain harvested and stored during poor weather this fall contains too much moisture to sell but may not store much longer either, says Murray Green, Alberta Agriculture's machinery engineer at Airdrie. " It's estimated that as much as several million tonnes of grain are in this condition, " he says.

Mr. Green says monitoring of the temperature of stored grain is essential since it doesn't necessarily remain the same as when it was first put into the bin. Anywhere from 60 to 90 days from when the grain was harvested and stored at high moisture content, heating may start. Microorganisms are active and produce additional heat in grain more moist than normal and warmer than 5°C. Any increase in grain signals the time to dry the damp grain. Aeration will serve as a temporary control of the grain heating condition. A good aeration system will be able to preserve grain which is under 20 per cent moisture until spring, at which time grain drying is less costly.

Farmers should take every opportunity to dry their grain this winter so it will be available for market, or to protect it from spoiling when the weather warms in the spring.

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Contact:

Murray Green
948-5101

January 6, 1986

For immediate release

Building better working relationships between farm family members

Building better working relationships between farm family members will be the focus of one of the topics at Alberta Agriculture's "Managing Agricultural Technology for Profit" conference. The conference is scheduled for March 17 - 20, 1986 at the Chateau Lake Louise, Lake Louise, Alberta.

The purpose of the presentation is to identify and emphasize the human elements that are often overlooked in a family farming operation or family business, says George Maicher with Alberta Agriculture's farm business management branch.

The misunderstandings and ill feelings that can destroy the working relationships necessary for a successful family operation will be discussed at this session. The human relationships and communication skills that are needed to avoid the personal conflicts problems that may arise between different family members in a farming operation will also be stressed.

Dr. Ron Hanson, a professor of farm management and agricultural finance at the University of Nebraska, will present this topic. He has earned national recognition for his outstanding teaching ability and his work with students.

Dr. Hanson will point out the common problems that many family farm operations face and share some experiences he has had helping various farm families resolve personal conflicts. He will share his do's and don'ts for family members farming together and will deal with the feelings and conflicts of children who do not return to the family farm sometimes have

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Building better working relationships between farm family members (cont'd)

Registration forms for the conference are available from Alberta Agriculture district offices, the farm business management branch and seed cleaning plants. The registration fee is $60 per person or $75 per couple.

For further information contact: George Maicher or James Obniawka, farm business management branch, Box 2000, Olds, Alberta, TOM 1PO, telephone 556-4240.

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Contact:

George Maicher or James Obniawka
556-4240

January 6

For immediate release

Build your own Rimbey calf shelter

Alberta Agriculture's engineering branch has published a plan for the "Rimbey calf shelter". It's based on calf shelters built by Brian Kriz, a cattleman in the Rimbey area.

The shelter can provide a warm dry spot out of the wind for young calves to rest and sleep. The cattle guard keeps mature cows from reaching in and eating the bedding. If straw in the shed gets wet and dirty, the shelter can be pulled to a clean site.

The shelter is inexpensive, easy to build, yet durable. The materials cost under $300 and it takes 5 to 10 hours to construct one shelter, says engineering technologist, John Kienholz.

(cont'd)

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Build your own Rimbey calf shelter (cont'd)

Copies of *Build Your Own Rimbey Calf Shelter*, Agdex 722-8, are available from Alberta Agriculture district offices or the Publications Office, 7000-113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6.

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Contact:

John Kienholz
427-2181

January 6, 1986

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The economics of growth implants

The value of implanting cattle raised for the finishing market has been widely acknowledged by Alberta ranchers and farmers. The advent of new products and applications has allowed fine tuning of product selection and has given cattlemen the opportunity to increase net returns.

Implanting calves and feeder cattle enhances their ability to grow, resulting in heavier calves at weaning. Feeder cattle will reach market weight in fewer days and the increased gain is significantly higher than for nonimplanted animals.

A publication entitled *The Economics Of Growth Implants* has been completed by Claire Lukey of Alberta Agriculture's farm business management branch at Olds.

The report covers product use in both pasture and feedlot situations and includes an information chart which shows specific products and their usage. A step-by-step analysis evaluates the economic benefits to individual producers.

Further information and a copy of this publication can be obtained from Alberta Agriculture district offices or the farm business management branch, Box 2000, Olds, Alberta, TOM IPO, telephone 556-4247.

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Contact:

Garth Nickorick
556-4247
RITE - 154-1247

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Watch for damage from hot air grain drying

Much of the grain harvested in Alberta this fall was tough or damp when placed in storage. In order for producers to sell this grain or preserve its quality it must be dried. In some cases the grain will improve in bushel weight as a result of drying.

Murray Green, a farm machinery engineer with Alberta Agriculture, says that all grains may be dried in hot air dryers without causing damage. However, it is important that producers check their grain during drying to ensure that they are not reducing its quality.

Damaged grain is caused by too high a temperature in the hot air plenum of the grain dryer. The dryer air temperature may be set too high or the setting may not reflect the actual drying temperature occurring.

The first indication of heat damage is loss of germination. This is particularly important if the grain is to be used for seed or malting. The temperature of the grain in this case should not exceed 110°F (45°C). Milling wheat should not exceed 150°F (66°C) and other commercial and feed grain should not exceed 180°F (82°C). Canola seed damper than 12 per cent moisture or to be stored more than six months should not exceed 130°F (54°C).

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Watch for damage from hot air grain dryer (cont'd)

In many dryers the grain temperature rises to within five to 10 degrees Celsius of the hot air, although this may vary with different brands and models of dryers. The temperature of drying grain approaches the hot air temperature when the grain is very damp initially or if the grain is being dried below 14.5 per cent moisture. This is sometimes done to take advantage of premiums paid for over-dry grain or to mix with other grain that is only slightly over the tough moisture percentage. If more than five or six per cent moisture is being removed from wheat, or if the wheat is dried to lower than 13 per cent moisture by weight, the drying temperature should be lowered five to 10 degrees.

Several samples of grain can be removed from a hot air grain dryer to check for maximum temperature. The end of the heating cycle of a recirculating batch dryer or the end of the heating portion of a continous flow dryer yields the hottest grain. Place the hot grain and thermometer into a insulated container such as a thermos. In about five minutes a grain temperature reading will be available.

Samples of wheat before and after it has been dried should be sent to the Canadian Grain Commission for analysis. If damage has occurred in the submitted sample, the board will contact the dryer operator . Send samples to: Grain Research Laboratory, 1404 - 303 Main Street, Winnipeg, Manitoba, R3C 3G8.

(cont'd)

Watch for damage from hot air grain drying (cont'd)

If heat damage problems persist, assistance is available from Alberta Agriculture engineers.

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Contact: Murray Green
948-5101

January 13, 1986

For immediate release

1985 custom rates for land breaking and clearing

The results of the 1985 survey of custom land breaking and clearing rates have been released by Alberta Agriculture statistics branch and farm business management branch. The survey was conducted in November, 1985. The information was gathered from 125 custom operators throughout Alberta. In general the rates charged decreased from the 1984 levels.

TABLE 1: LAND CLEARING (DOLLARS PER ACRE)

REGION	MOST COMMON 1985 CHARGE	MOST COMMON 1984 CHARGE
Brushing and Piling		
South	$100-$125	$120-$140
Central	$10-$90	$110-$130
North	$90-$118	$95-$104
Repiling		
South	$35	$38
Central	$30-$38	-
North	$12-$15	$9-$10
Ripping		
South	$112	-
Central	$85-$95	$150-$180
North	-	$120

TABLE 2: LAND BREAKING (DOLLARS PER ACRE)

REGION	MOST COMMON 1985 CHARGE	MOST COMMON 1984 CHARGE
Discing		
South	$6-$8	-
Central	$18-$22	$16-$20
North	$25-$30	$18-$22

(cont'd)

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TABLE 2: LAND BREAKING (DOLLARS PER ACRE) cont'd

REGION	MOST COMMON 1985 CHARGE	MOST COMMON 1984 CHARGE
Plowing		
South	$20	$19
Central	-	-
North	$30-39	$37-$48
Cultivating		
South	$5-$8	$13
Central	-	-
North	-	$12
Dugouts		
South	-	$90/hr
Central	$55/hr	$55-$101/hr
North	$65/hr	$55-$67/hr .70-.90/yd^3

The figures given in the tables are actual charges quoted by custom operators. Individual rates are dependent on equipment used and the land to be cleared. The rates are for one pass only. The majority of those surveyed include travel costs in their rate quoted.

A detailed copy of the survey results on land clearing and breaking or other custom operations can be obtained from Alberta Agriculture district offices, the statistics branch in Edmonton (427-4018) or the farm business management branch in Olds (556-4247).

Contact:

Garth Nickorick

556-4247

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January 13, 1986

For immediate release

1985 custom tillage charges

The 1985 custom rates for tillage have been released by Alberta Agriculture. Garth Nickorick, farm management economist, has summarized the statistics branch's annual survey of custom operators. The November 1985 survey reflects the actual charges for tillage operations by those who perform this service for a fee.

Tillage Charges (Dollars Per Acre)

Region	Most Common 1985 Charge	Most Common 1984 Charge
Cultivating		
South	$4.00-$7.00	$4.50-$5.50
Central	$4.00-$6.00	$4.90-$6.00
North	$3.50-$6.00	$4.50-$7.50

Pasture/hayland charges are double.

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1985 custom tillage charges (cont'd)

Disking		
South	$6.00-$8.00	$4.50-$6.00
Central	$5.50-$7.50	$3.70-$5.85
North	$6.50-$12.20	$6.00-$10.00

Pasture/hayland charges are double.

Plowing		
South	* $15-$20	* $3.40-$17.00
Central	* $13	* $11.60
North	$6-$12	$6.00-$7.50

* Two reports or fewer.

The range of rates an operator will charge is based on the equipment used, the size, shape and condition of the land to be worked. The above rates are for one pass over the field only. The survey is based on the response of 62 operators. Transportation charges are reflected in the rates.

Additional information on custom tillage operations or other custom rates, is available from Alberta Agriculture district offices, the statistics branch in Edmonton (427-4018) or the farm business management branch in Olds (556-4247).

Contact: Garth Nickorick
556-4247

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March 1 deadline for tree pruning course

March 1, 1986 is the deadline for registering for Alberta Agriculture's annual tree pruning courses. They will be held simultaneously at the Alberta Horticultural Research Center at Brooks and the Alberta Tree Nursery and Horticulture Centre at Oliver (near Edmonton) March 4 and 5.

The courses are designed mainly for people who work with trees, but are open to anyone interested in tree maintenance and beautification.

The courses will cover pruning techniques recommended for shade, ornamental and fruit trees, and will give participants practice in pruning. Other topics include insect and disease control as they relate to pruning, tree structural growth, tree and shrub hardiness and tree varieties recommended for Alberta.

The number of participants will be limited to 30 in each location. If there is sufficient interest, an attempt will be made to accommodate extra people in another course at either of the two locations immediately after the scheduled courses.

The registration fee for the course is $10, and it must be paid by March 1.

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March 1 deadline for tree pruning course (con't'd)

Application forms or further information about the courses is available from Herman Oosterhuis at the Alberta Tree Nursery and Horticulture Centre, R.R. 6, Edmonton, Alberta T5B 4K3 (telephone 973-3351) or Brendan Casement at the Alberta Horticultural Research Center, Bag Service 200, Brooks, Alberta, TOJ OJO (telephone 362-3391).

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For further information please contact:

Herman Oosterhuis or Brendan Casement
Brooks 973-3351 Edmonton 362-3391

January 13, 1986

For immediate release

Lakeland Forage Association holds annual symposium

Managing your native rangeland and tame pastures for profit is the theme for the annual Lakeland Forage Association symposium.

The symposium will be held February 6, 1986 at Craigend Community Hall and February 5, 1986 at the Bonnyville Agriplex. (Craigend Hall is located 12.5 miles south and 2 miles east of Lac La Biche along highway 55.) The same topics will be presented at both locations.

" With the present economic climate, it's important for livestock producers to consider less expensive methods of improving grazing leases and increasing forage production on tame pastures," says Harvey Yoder, district agriculturist at Lac La Biche.

Information on the use of herbicides, burning, grazing and windrowing to improve native range will be presented at the symposium. Rotational grazing, the use of some new species and varieties of grasses and legumes, and fertilizing tame pastures will be discussed as methods of improving production of cultivated pastures. The symposium will deal with the costs and expected results and returns for the various range improvement practices. Comparisons between native and cultivated pastures will be considered and how livestock producers can make maximum use of native and cultivated pastures will be discussed.

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Lakeland Forage Association holds annual symposium (cont'd)

Speakers for the symposium include Dr. Roger Collins from the University of Saskatchewan; Ken Lopetinsky; Alberta Agriculture's regional forage specialist at Barrhead; Jerry Ehlert; lands division, Alberta Energy and Natural Resources, St. Paul; and Bjorne Berg, Alberta Agriculture's regional forage specialist at Vermilion.

The cost of the symposium is $10 which includes lunch. The deadline to register for either of the symposiums is February 1, 1986. The registration fee can be sent to: Lakeland Forage Association, Box 389, Lac La Biche, Alberta, TOA 2CO. For further information contact Harvey Yoder at 623-5218 or Ron Hockridge at 826-3388.

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Contact: Harvey Yoder 623-5218
Ron Hockridge 826-3388

January 13, 1986

For immediate release

Causes of tail-biting in market pigs

Incidents of tail-biting and cannibalism appear to be on the increase in feeder pigs raised in confinement in Alberta. This problem can account for up to 20 per cent lower productivity and become a real source of financial loss to a pig enterprise, says Sam Jaikaran, Alberta Agriculture's monogastric nutritionist.

A number of factors have been identified as potential causes of tail-biting and cannibalism in feeder pigs. When the problem occurs each of these factors must be considered as it applies to the situation at hand. Here is a list of potential causes of tail-biting and cannibalism in feeder pigs raised indoors under confinement conditions:

1. Overcrowding, which leads to inadequate feeder space and watering nipples.
2. Mixing together and penning of pigs with large differences in body weight.
3. High levels of dust in the air.
4. High levels of barn and septic gases in the air.
5. High humidity in the barn.
6. Barn kept too warm.
7. Wide fluctuation of barn temperature at pig level.
8. Damp floors.
9. Unbalanced diet.

(cont'd)

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Causes of tail-biting in market pigs (cont'd)

10. Presence of molds and mycotixins in the feed.
11. Too little feed fed daily leading to inadequate or uneven daily feed intakes.
12. Irregular feeding times and lack of a feeding routine.
13. Inadequate water supply, probably due to a plugged nipple filter.
14. Pigs suffering from anemia.
15. Boredom - the need for toys (e.g., balls, chains, etc.)
16. Mange infestation.

Tail-biting and cannibalism are sometimes referred to as the anti-comfort syndrome. Any combination of the factors mentioned above may trigger an outbreak of tail-biting and once started it becomes a habit which may be difficult to break if not stopped at once. Correcting the causes and removing the biters and the bitten to separate pens is the only way to deal with the problem.

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Contact: Sam Jaikaran
436-9150

January 13, 1986

For immediate release

Crop protection '86 update

Alberta Agriculture has announced that owing to popular demand a fourth seminar will be added to Crop Protection '86, the crop protection branch's new course on crop insects, weed control, plant disease and management of problem wildlife.

The new seminar will be held in the east-central area of the province and sponsored by the Alberta Environmental Centre in Vegreville.

Keith Price, head of the crop protection branch, says that many agricultural industry contacts are making special merchandise offers to course registrants. Students will receive about $1500 worth of discounts on safety equipment, pesticides, sprayers and other items. Prizes valued at over $2000 and a $500 transferable scholarship are also offered.

The winner of the first early registration prize was William Babiuk of Willingdon. Further prizes will be announced soon.

The deadline for registration in Crop Protection '86 is approaching and farmers who have not done so already are urged to pick up registration forms from their district agriculturist, agricultural fieldman, elevator manager or UFA store.

(cont'd)

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Crop protection '86 update (cont'd)

For more information contact Alberta Agriculture's crop protection branch at 427-5330.

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Contact: Keith Price
427-5330

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January 13, 1986

For immediate release

Trends in land leasing

Farm land leasing agreements are continuing to change throughout the province according to annual surveys carried out by Alberta Agriculture. Information collected by the statistics branch and the farm business management branch indicate that the cash rental agreement is the dominant form of lease in Alberta.

Cash rental has shown the largest increase in popularity in the south -central region (Calgary - Three Hills - Oyen). Figures for 1985 show a 58 per cent increase in cash rental agreements since 1982.

Crop share leases have shown the largest increase in popularity in the northwest region (Edmonton - Barrhead - Peace River). Figures for 1985 show a 75 per cent increase for crop share leases in the past three years.

There is a definite trend toward longer lease periods especially regarding crop share. Five years ago 48 per cent of all rent agreements were for one year, 15 per cent were for three years. In 1985, 27 per cent of agreements were for one year, 27 per cent were for three years.

The surveys showed that tenants wanted greater stability for farm planning and landlords wanted better care of the land. To attain this goal a large proportion of landlords contribute part of the expense of fertilizer and herbicide. Crop share leases of five years and longer are usually within family arrangements. Five year cash rent agreements are

(cont'd)

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Trends in land leasing (cont'd)

are risky for both landlord and tenant. There is an almost complete lack of two or four year leases.

In the upcoming season cash rental should continue to be popular for landlords. They are likely to receive payment equal to 1985 levels in areas of past strong crops. Areas which have experienced successive poor crops will increasingly favor crop share arrangements. Three year leases will continue in popularity.

Many past purchase decisions were made based on supporting income from rented land. For those entering negotiations for a lease, the publication Leasing Cropland in Alberta, Agdex 812-5, is available from Alberta Agriculture's district offices or from the Publications Office, 7000 - 113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6. Topics concerning financial, tax and legal considerations are discussed at length.

For further information contact your district agriculturist or the farm business management branch, Box 2000, Olds, Alberta, T0M 1P0, telephone 556-4247 or RITE 154-1247.

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Contact: Garth Nickorick
556-4247

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January 13, 1986

For immediate release

Pulse growers to hold annual meeting and seminar

The northern branch of the Pulse Growers Association of Alberta (P.G.A.A.) will hold its annual meeting and seminar on January 28, 1986. It will be held at the Provincial Building in Morinville from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

The morning will be devoted to business aspects of the association. In the afternoon, Rick Corbett from Alberta Agriculture's soil and feed testing lab will discuss the use of pulses in dairy rations. Sam Jaikaran, also with the lab, will talk about the use of pulses in swine rations. The benefits of growing pulses on subsequent crop yields will be the topic presented by Jerome Lickacz of Alberta Agriculture's soils branch.

In 1985, the newly-formed northern branch was successful in conducting a wide range of agronomic demonstrations thanks to funds from Farming for the Future - On Farm Demonstration Program and producer and industry participation. The projects that were conducted included: inoculation techniques on fababeans, phosphate and potash fertility on field peas, variety trials of fababeans, field peas grown alone and with canola, seeding rates of fababeans, and herbicide trials on fababeans.

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Pulse growers to hold annual meeting and seminar (cont'd)

Several new ideas were introduced by members of the group. An English wrinkle pea variety was grown with excellent results. A field of Chinese broad beans was grown which compared very favorably with fababeans. The most innovative idea was a swather modication project designed to make swathing of pulses easier.

For further information on the northern branch of the P.G.A.A. or this year's annual meeting and seminar contact: John Hladky (939-4351) or Ken Lopetinsky (674-8258).

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Contact: John Hladky 939-4351
Ken Lopetinsky 674-8258

January 13, 1986

For immediate release

Dairy division appointments announced

Ed Bristow, production branch head with Alberta Agriculture's dairy division, has announced three staff appointments.

David Croy has been appointed dairy farm specialist at Lethbridge and John VanderLeest has been appointed dairy farm specialist at Red Deer. They will work with producers to maintain high milk quality and will develop extension programs to improve milk production efficiency.

After graduating from the University of British Columbia in 1981 with a B.Sc. in agriculture, Mr. Croy worked at Agriculture Canada's feed analysis laboratory in Prince George.

Mr. VanderLeest graduated in 1973 with a B.A. from Trinity Christian College, Chicago, Illinois. In 1978 he completed a B.Sc. in agriculture from the University of Alberta. He worked for seven years as a district agriculturist; first in Westlock and then Thorhild, Alberta.

Peter Schmiemann has been appointed dairy farm technician at Barrhead. He will be involved in dairy farm inspection and product sampling to ensure milk quality. Mr. Schmiemann will also provide technical support for dairy extension services.

(cont'd)

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Dairy division appointments announced (cont'd)

He attended Olds College where he received an agricultural engineering technology diploma in 1984 and an agricultural general production diploma in 1985.

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Contact: Ed Bristow
352-1223

January 13, 1986

For immediate release

New district agriculturist at Thorhild

Bob Drysdale has been appointed district agriculturist at Alberta Agriculture's Thorhild office. He replaces John VanderLeest who has joined the dairy division in Red Deer. The appointment which was effective December 16, 1985 was announced by J.B. Tackaberry, director of the northwest region.

Mr. Drysdale graduated from the University of Manitoba in 1970 with a B.Sc. in agriculture. Shortly after he joined the veterinary services division of Manitoba Agriculture where he carried out research and extension work in nutrition and management relating to livestock diseases and production losses.

In 1979, Mr. Drysdale completed a Master's degree in ruminant nutrition, and joined the rural development division of Manitoba Agriculture as a district agriculturist. He was stationed at The Pas, where he served until his present appointment.

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Contact: Bob Drysdale
674-8264

Correction

In Agri-News January 6, 1986, the contact person for the article entitled, Build your own Rimbey calf shelter, should be Gordon Bacon, district agriculturist at Rimbey, telephone 843-2201.

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Coming Agricultural Events

1986

Annual Convention and Meeting
Western Canadian Wheat Growers Association
Westin Hotel
Calgary, Alberta ..... January 5 - 8

Canadian Seed Growers Association
Alberta Branch
Marlborough Inn
Calgary, Alberta ..... January 8 - 10

Unifarm Annual Convention
Edmonton Inn
Edmonton, Alberta ..... January 13 - 16

Farm and Home Week
University of Saskatchewan
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan ..... January 13 - 17

Western Canadian Crop Production Show
Saskatoon Prairieland Exhibition Centre
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan ..... January 14 - 17

Alberta Pork Seminar
Banff Centre
Banff, Alberta ..... January 15 - 17

Alberta Farm Women's Conference
Lodge Hotel
Red Deer, Alberta ..... January 16 - 18

Alberta Horse Breeders Conference
Capri Centre
Red Deer, Alberta ..... January 18 - 19

Principles of Rural Appraisal
Olds College
Olds, Alberta ..... January 20 - 25
Robert A. Berrien, Calgary - 256-3661

Manitoba Beef Cattle Seminar
Agricultural Exhibition Centre
Brandon, Manitoba ..... January 21 - 22
Keith Smith - (204) 728-5724

(Cont'd)

Coming Agricultural Events (Cont'd)

Saskatchewan Livestock Convention
Hotel Saskatchewan
Regina, Saskatchewan ..... January 21 - 23
Mary H. Ehman - 757-6133

Alberta Cattle Feeders Association Convention '86
Palliser Hotel
Calgary, Alberta ..... January 23 - 24

Association of Alberta Co-op Seed Cleaning Plants Ltd Annual Convention
Westin Hotel
Edmonton, Alberta ..... January 23 - 25

Alberta Canola Growers Association Annual Convention
Four Seasons Hotel
Edmonton, Alberta ..... January 29 - 31
Lisa Kendrick - 454-0844

Farm Business Management Conference
Travellers Motor Hotel
Peace River, Alberta ..... January 31 - February 1

Alberta Dairy Convention
Convention Inn South
Edmonton, Alberta ..... February 3 - 5

What's In Stock For You
Provincial Beef Seminar
Hotel Saskatchewan
Regina, Saskatchewan ..... February 4 - 6
Allen Hingston - 787-4694, Barry Petersen - 773-2866

Annual Washington State Potato Conference and Trade Fair
Moses Lake, Washington State ..... February 5 - 7

Canadian Meat Council
Royal York Hotel
Toronto, Ontario ..... February 6 - 7

Canadian Charolais Association Annual Meeting and Convention
Saskatoon Inn
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan ..... February 6 - 8
Ed Pelletier - (306) 467-2286

Annual Meeting & Convention of Alberta Soft Wheat Growers Association Lodge Hotel
Lethbridge, Alberta ..... February 7
Andy Kovacs - 738-4535

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Coming Agricultural Events (Cont'd)

Provincial Agricultural Service Board Conference
Convention Inn South & the Terrace Inn
Edmonton, Alberta ..... February 9 - 12
F. Leavitt - 427-2171

REDA (Rural Education Development Association) Conference
Edmonton, Alberta ..... February 10 - 11
Cliff Wulff - 427-4241

Soils and Crops Workshop
University of Saskatchewan
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan ..... February 17 - 18
Glen Hass - 966-5550

Provincial Agricultural Development Committee Conference
Edmonton, Alberta ..... February 18 - 19
F. Leavitt - 427-2171

Stress and Farming Workshop
University of Saskatchewan
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan ..... February 19 - 20
Bruce Hobin - 966-5551

"Grow with Canola" Symposium
Fairview College
Fairview, Alberta ..... February 19 - 20
Henry Vos - 981-2183

1986 Alberta Poultry Industry Conference
Capri Centre
Red Deer, Alberta ..... February 26 - 27
Bill Herbert - 427-5090

Western Barley Growers Association Annual Convention
Marlborough Inn
Calgary, Alberta ..... February 26 - 28

Implement Manufacturers Association Convention
Winnipeg Inn
Winnipeg, Manitoba ..... February 26 - 28

Seed Fair and Hay Show
Stampede Park
Calgary, Alberta ..... March 1 - 4

Canadian Wheat Production Symposium
Saskatoon Inn
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan ..... March 3 - 5
Bruce Hobin - (306) 966-5539

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Coming Agricultural Events (Cont'd)

Ag-Expo
Exhibition Grounds
Lethbridge, Alberta ..... March 5 - 7

Smoky River Agricultural Trade Show and
Agricultural Electronics Show
Falher Arena
Falher, Alberta ..... March 6 - 8
Marcel Cloutier - 837-2425

Agriculture Hall of Fame
Westin Hotel
Edmonton, Alberta ..... March 7

Agriculture Week
Province of Alberta ..... March 10 - 15

"Farming for the Future" Research Conference
Edmonton Inn
Edmonton, Alberta ..... March 11 - 12
Evelyn Shapka - 427-1956

Alberta Dairy Seminar
Banff Springs Hotel
Banff, Alberta ..... March 11 - 14
Val Smyth - (403) 432-2406

Accent -- Taking Stock
Grains, oilseed and livestock market outlook conference
Convention Centre
Calgary, Alberta ..... March 11 - 14
Sharon Abbott - 427-5393

Seed & Agricultural Trade Fair
Evergreen Park
Grande Prairie, Alberta ..... March 13 - 14

Managing Agricultural Technology for Profit Seminar
Chateau Lake Louise
Lake Louise, Alberta ..... March 17 - 20
James Obniawka - 556-4240

Northlands Pedigreed Seed Show
Northlands AgriCom Building
Edmonton, Alberta ..... March 25 - 29

Swine Design Trade Show
Wheatland "A" Building
Exhibition Grounds
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan ..... March 26 - 27
Al Theede (306) 993-5096, Gerald Bayne (306) 787-6590

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Symposium "In Search of Soil and Water Conservation Strategies"
College of Agriculture
University of Saskatoon
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan ..... April 1 - 3
Dean D.A. Rennie - 966-4050

Alberta Pork Producers Marketing Board Annual Meeting
Edmonton Inn
Edmonton, Alberta ..... April 16 - 17

Water Management Conference
Montebello, Quebec. ..... May 27 - 30

Canada Agfest '86
Featuring 1986 Canadian Plowing Championships and
33rd World Plowing Match
Olds College
Olds, Alberta ..... May 29 - June 3
Bob McFadyen - 556-7569

Drought-The Impending Crisis
Regina, Saskatchewan ..... June 3 - 6
K. Jones - (306) 780-6414

Agriculture Workshop for Lenders
Olds College
Olds, Alberta ..... June 8 - 13
Doug Barlund - 556-4245

29th Conference of the Canadian Institute of Food Science Technology Convention Centre
Calgary, Alberta. ..... June 29 - July 2
Dr. Dave Schroder - 986-4793

6th International Farm Management Congress
(Managing Food Systems)
Minneapolis
Minnesota, U.S.A ..... June 29 - July 4

"Age of Information"
Agriculture Institute of Canada, Annual Conference
University of Saskatchewan
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan ..... July 6 - 10
Jack Braidek - (306) 665-3519

International Feed Legume
Legume Research Conference
Spokane, Washington, U.S.A ..... July 6 - 11

World Charolais Federation Annual Meeting
Marlborough Inn
Calgary, Alberta ..... July 9 - 12
Joyce Stewart - (403) 276-9242

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Coming Agricultural Events (Cont'd)

American Society of Animal Science, Annual Conference
Fresno, California ..... July 13 - 18

World Sheep and Wool Congress
Edmonton Northlands
Edmonton, Alberta. ..... July 15 - 21
Bob Gary - 471-7364

3rd International Conference on Animal Genetics
University of Nebraska
Lincoln, Nebraska, U.S.A ..... July 17 - 22
Phone: (402) 472-3574

Canadian Galloway Association Annual Meeting
Brooks, Alberta ..... July 26
Mike Page - (403) 548-6622

Agriculture Canada Tillage-Soil Conservation Workshop
Regina, Saskatchewan ..... August 6
Judy Wilson - (306) 585-0255

Agriculture Canada Centennial Field Day
Indian Head Experimental Farm
Indian Head, Saskatchewan ..... August 7
Judy Wilson - (306) 585-0255

Agritech Exhibition & Professional Agriculture Tours
Tel Aviv, Israel ..... September
Yaffa Dattner - (403) 228-3310

Alberta Irrigation Projects Assocaition Annual Conference
Lethbridge Hotel
Lethbridge, Alberta ..... November 17
Diane Virostek - 654-4150

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AGRI-NEWS

January 20, 1986

For immediate release

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January 20, 1986

For immediate release

Alberta firms receive assistance

Two Alberta firms, which received financial assistance totalling $154,627 to establish new facilities, have officially opened.

The assistance was provided under the Canada-Alberta Nutritive Processing Assistance Agreement, a joint project of the federal and provincial governments.

High Arctic Marketing Corporation Ltd. opened its new seafood processing plant in Wetaskiwin on January 3, 1986. According to company president Gordon Jagar, the new $498,000 plant will produce more than 50 varieties of frozen seafood while maintaining 42 existing jobs and creating four additional ones. The firm used $84,842 from the Nutritive Processing Agreement to build the facility.

King B. Jerky (Canada) Inc. used $69,785 from the Nutritive Processing Agreement to build its new meat processing plant in Penhold. The company produces beef jerky for distribution in the Canadian marketplace. The new facility, which opened on January 6, 1986, cost $381,000 and has created 12 jobs.

Since 1975, the Nutritive Processing Assistance Agreement has provided more than $31 million to food processors in rural Alberta.

Further information on the Nutritive Processing Agreement is available from Dr. Jim Wiebe at 427-4287.

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Contact:
Dr. Jim Wiebe
427-4287

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For immediate release

Check temperature of stored grain

Poor weather during most of the 1985 grain harvest resulted in much grain being stored which is " out of condition ".

Any cereal grain which has more than nine per cent moisture is in danger of spoiling in the storage bin, says Murray Green, Alberta Agriculture's farm machinery engineer at Airdrie. The temperature of the stored grain also affects the spoilage potential; the warmer the grain, the more dangerous the condition.

Cereal grain up to 22 per cent moisture may be stored up to six months, and canola up to 12 per cent moisture may be stored up to three months as long as the grain or seed temperature is kept below 5°C.

Mr. Green says under any circumstances, when stored cereal grain is damper than 14.5 per cent moisture or canola higher than nine per cent moisture, frequent checks of the grain temperature should be made.

Temperature monitoring equipment is available from many farm suppliers, or producers can construct their own using Alberta Agriculture's *Build Your Own Remote Temperature Monitor* plan.

To check grain temperature the entire grain mass must be probed, particularly the centre from the mid-height to the top. Any increase in grain temperature indicates that the grain must be aerated. Aeration should be continuous until the temperature of the grain is lowered and grain should be intermittently aerated to maintain the low temperature. If aeration equipment is not available, the heating grain must be dried immediately. Moving the grain, often referred to as " turning the grain ", may halt grain heating temporarily.

(Cont'd)

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Check temperature of stored grain (Cont'd)

Conditions which are considered critical and which indicate grain should be dried or aerated and dried soon after are:

- any increase in the grain temperature in the bin
- cereal grain above 15°C and 18 per cent moisture
- oilseeds above 15°C and 12 per cent moisture
- any tough grain which has been in storage without aeration for 60 to 90 days.

Copies of *Build Your Own Remote Temperature Monitor,* Agdex 775-2 are available from Alberta Agriculture district offices or the Publications Office, 7000 - 113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6.

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Contact:
Murray Green
948-5101

For immediate release

Simplifying federal fuel tax rebates

If you are reluctant to submit forms to Revenue Canada for sales tax rebates, there is an easier way, says Doug Barlund of Alberta Agriculture's farm business management branch. Sales tax on purple, gasoline and diesel fuel can be rebated directly at your bulk dealership if you have a sales tax bulk permit number.

Farmers, fishermen, loggers, miners, hunters and trappers who use gasoline and diesel fuel in their off-highway operations are eligible for a rebate of the three cents per litre federal sales tax on bulk purchases of these fuels. There are two ways of obtaining this rebate: submit a claim form FT3 (brown colored) to Revenue Canada, or obtain a sales tax bulk permit number and have your bulk dealer make the deduction on the invoices. The second method is the most desirable for the farm operator.

To obtain your sales tax bulk permit number, pick up an application form (green colored) at your nearest excise office or local bulk dealer, fill it out, and mail it to Revenue Canada Excise in Ottawa. When you receive your sales tax bulk permit number, you must present it to your bulk dealer so he can begin deducting the three cents sales tax at the pump. Ottawa does not notify bulk dealers as to who has obtained a permit number.

Any fuel tax rebate on gasoline or diesel fuel purchased before the effective date of your sales tax bulk permit may only be obtained by filing an Application for Rebate of Fuel Tax with Revenue Canada. These application forms (FT3) are brown colored and are available at your local post office, bulk dealer or nearest Revenue Canada excise office.

(Cont'd)

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Simplifying federal fuel tax rebates (Cont'd)

Once you have your permit number, says Mr. Barlund, you aren't out of the woods yet. Remembering that fuel used on-highway is not eligible for the three cents rebate, it is essential to estimate non-eligible fuel quantities and not deduct the three cents off your invoice. Here are two ways of dealing with the three cent deduction on the bulk dealer invoices.

1. Deduct three cents from all fuel purchased and risk having to pay back the deduction to Revenue Canada. Collecting a rebate for non-eligiblefuel is called a diversion and must be paid back to Revenue Canada within 30 days from the end of the month in which the diversion occurred. There is a form (FT98-Fuel Tax Return) for this calculation, available from your nearest excise office.
2. Estimate the percentage of fuel your operation will use off-highway and have your bulk dealer apply the three cent rebate only to that quantity of each delivery. For example, if only 25 per cent of your total purple gasoline purchases is used in off-highway operations, have your dealer deduct the three cents from the eligible 25 per cent of each purple gasoline delivery.

If all the diesel fuel you purchase is used in off-highway operations, the three cents per litre can be deducted from all diesel purchases.

(Cont'd)

Simplifying federal fuel tax rebates (Cont'd)

The first method is probably the least desirable as it involves more paperwork due to the requirement of having to report diversions within 30 days of the end of the month in which the diversion occurred. Regardless of which method you choose to calculate and deduct the federal sales tax rebate, it is essential to make an accurate estimate of eligible fuel. Failure to do so will result in an audit of your calculations and possible penalties for making a false claim.

For further clarification of how to obtain a sales tax bulk permit number, contact Revenue Canada Excise.

Revenue Canada
Excise Office
Room 470
220 - 4th Ave. S.E.
Calgary, Alberta
T2P 3B7
Telephone: 292-5678

Revenue Canada
Excise Office
6th Floor
Manulife Building
10055 - 106 Street
Edmonton, Alberta
T5J 2Y2
Telephone: 420-4320

Contact:

Douglas E. Barlund
556-4245

Alberta
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Phone: (403) 427-2121

January 20, 1986

For immediate release

Save on farm fuel costs

With increasing pressure on net farm income over the past few years, it pays to be aware of available programs that help offset farm operating costs, says Doug Barlund, farm management economist with Alberta Agriculture's farm business management branch.

A good portion of fuel costs can be offset by three programs now available:

1. Federal Fuel Tax Rebate
2. Alberta Farm Fuel Distribution Allowance
3. Federal Excise Tax Refund on Gasoline

Most farmers qualify for each of the above.

As an example of the impact of these programs, diesel fuel used for farm production qualifies for a rebate of three cents per litre (federal sales tax) and 14 cents per litre (Alberta Farm Fuel Distribution Allowance). If you're paying 40 cents per litre for your farm diesel, the rebate of 17 cents per litre provides a 43 per cent reduction in the cost of this fuel.

Most of these programs require a bit of paperwork and although most of it is fairly straightforward, there are a few precautions.

(Cont'd)

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Save on farm fuel costs (Cont'd)

I.Federal Fuel Tax Rebate

This program provides a rebate of three cents per litre, and is available to loggers, miners, fishermen, farmers, hunters and trappers, who use gasoline and diesel fuel in their commercial operations. It became effective December 1, 1984 and runs to December 31, 1986. Initially it offered a total rebate of 4.8 cents per litre on purple gasoline and diesel fuel used for off-highway purposes. This rebate was made up of three cents per litre federal sales tax and 1.8 cents per litre Petroleum Compensation Charge (PCC).

Precautions:

a) The May federal budget cancelled the Petroleum Compensation Charge, leavingonly the sales tax of three cents per litre eligible for rebate. In other words, farm fuels, purple diesel and gas purchased between December 1, 1984 and May 31, 1985 are eligible for a rebate of 4.8 cents per litre.

But be aware that to get the 4.8 cents per litre for this period claims must be filed within one year of the date of purchase. For example, if fuelwas purchased on January 24, 1985, the claim must be postmarked by January 23,1986.

For fuels purchased on or after May 24, 1985, you have a time limit of twoyears in which to submit your claim for the three cents per litre sales tax rebate.

(Cont'd)

Save on farm fuel costs (Cont'd)

b) When completing the claim form (FT-3 - brown color) Section K, rememberthat only **the fuel used up to May 31, 1985** is eligible for **both** the threecents per litre sales tax and the PCC rebate of 1.8 cents per litre. You may wish to submit one claim form for fuels purchased to May 31, 1985 andanother one for fuels purchased June 1, 1985 to December 31, 1985.

Also, remember that fuels used **on-highway are not eligible** for rebate.

Failure to record the fuel usage properly could result in an audit of your claim. This will delay the return of your rebate and could result in repayment of rebate not-due plus an interest penalty of 1.5 per cent per month back to the date the claim was postmarked.

Claim forms are available at your local post office.

c) To simplify totalling your total fuel purchases, one suggestion is to list your purchases of **purple gasoline and diesel fuel separately**,indicating the date of purchase and quantity purchased. This will help you separate eligible off-highway fuel from on-highway and will help identify the litres used up to May 31, 1985.

If most of your off-highway vehicles (combines, tractors, swathers) burn diesel, then most of your diesel fuel will be eligible for the rebate.

Fuel used for trucking produce to town (on-highway) is not eligible for rebate. In other words, most of the fuel used beyond the farm gate is not eligible for rebate under this program.

(Cont'd)

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Save on farm fuel costs (Cont'd)

II. Alberta Farm Fuel Distribution Allowance

This provincial program provides a reduction of 14 cents per litre for purple gas, purple diesel, and purple heating oil used in farming operations. This program originally provided seven cents per litre, deducted off the farm fuel invoice. On December 1, 1985 it was increased to14 cents per litre retroactive to January 1, 1985. Claims for the retroactive seven cents per litre, rebate must be submitted along with proof of purchase by March 31, 1986 to Alberta Treasury. After December 1, 1985, farm fuel invoices will show the direct deduction of14 cents per litre.

To get the retroactive seven cents per litre, farmers must submit an application form for fuel purchases made between January 1, 1985 and November 30, 1985. These forms will be mailed out to all persons who received benefits under this program since it started in 1982. If you don't receive a form, and are eligible for the rebate, contact your bulk dealer.

III. Federal Excise Tax Refund On Gasoline

For gasoline used in farming, this program provides a refund of 1.5 cents per litre for gasoline used in both on-highway and off-highway use. Claim forms(blue) should be submitted every six months or when the tax claimable is more than $200. It is not necessary to submit proof of purchase, but receipts and invoices should be retained for audit purposes. Claim forms are available at your local post office, or nearest federal excise office.

(Cont'd)

Save on farm fuel costs (Cont'd)

For all of these programs it is essential to record your fuel usage accurately. Failure to do so will delay your claim with a resulting audit of the claim and possible penalties.

For further clarification of these programs, contact:

Revenue Canada
Excise Office
Room 470
220 - 4th Avenue S.E.
Calgary, Alberta
T2P 3B7
Telephone: 292-5678

or

Revenue Canada
Excise Office
6th Floor
Manulife Building
10055 - 106 Street
Edmonton, Alberta
T5J 2Y2
Telephone: 420-4320

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Contact:

Wanda Gratz: 556-4240
or
Doug Barland: 556-4245

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Print Media Branch

Phone: (403) 427-2121

January 20, 1986

For immediate release

Farm management information

Farm managers, like other managers, are always looking for information to help them improve their ability to survive or succeed in their occupation. Information can be a very important resource, but if it takes too much time for a manager to find it, read it and use it, the advantages of doing so may diminish considerably.

Radio, television and computer communications provide a wide variety of interesting information that farmers can and do use. But for specific topics where it takes time to study and understand the basic concepts, written reports are probably the most valuable form of information.

To help farmers looking for specific farm management information, the farm business management branch of Alberta Agriculture has prepared a list of written publications dealing with many aspects of farm management in Alberta.

The listing provides the titles of publications available from the market analysis branch, statistics branch, production and resource economics branch, print media branch and farm business management branch. Addresses and telephone numbers are provided with explanations of how to get the specific material you want if it is not available at your Alberta Agriculture district office.

(Cont'd)

Alberta
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Print Media Branch

Phone: (403) 427-2121

Farm management information (Cont'd)

The list, called *Sources of Printed Farm Management Information* from Alberta Agriculture, is available only by writing to: Craig Edwards, farm business management branch, Box 2000, Olds, Alberta, T0M 1P0.

There is no charge for the list or other publications; it is asked that you order only those that are needed and useful to you.

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Contact:
Craig Edwards
556-4248

January 20, 1986

For immediate release

New film looks at condition scoring in dairy cattle

Condition scoring in dairy cattle is relatively new in Alberta. However, with the recent release of the film, *What's the Score*, it has been brought to the forefront as a valuable management tool.

With the condition scoring system, body condition is assessed on a one to five scale; a condition score of 1 is given to animals in very poor condition while a score of 5 is for animals which are grossly fat. The cow's condition is assessed by handling two areas to gauge the level of fat cover. These are the loin area between the hip bone and the last rib, and the area around the tail head including the pin bones.

What's the Score, demonstrates the condition scoring system by reviewing the five categories of animals and describing characteristics of each.

Used in conjunction with practical demonstrations and support literature from Alberta Agriculture, the film will serve as an excellent teaching guide.

The film was produced by Alberta Agriculture's broadcast media branch with assistance from five dairy producers in the Edmonton area.

The film is 15 minutes in length and could be used by any group interested in dairy cattle management.

To reserve the film and arrange technical assistance, contact the dairy division in Wetaskiwin at 352-1223.

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Contact:

Brian Rhiness
352-1223

January 20, 1986

For immediate release

Alberta 4-H'ers sweep national show

L-R, (back row) Terry Crisp, Shelley Ann Werenka, Erick Klugkist, Leah Dick, Susan Jackson, V.R. Gilliland (John Deere Ltd), (front row) David Trautman, Jackie Brokopp, Tracey West, Candace Tegart.

Three Alberta 4-H members placed in the top four grand aggregate standings at the Canadian Western Agribition at Regina, November 21 to 24, 1985.

Leah Dick from Westlock stood second overall in the judging competition. She was followed by third place Shelley Ann Werenka of the Sangudo Beef Club and Erik Klugkist of Condor, who placed fourth.

(Cont'd)

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Alberta 4-H'ers sweep national show (cont'd)

They were members of the 1985 Alberta Livestock Judging Team at the eighth annual International 4-H Judging Seminar.

Forty three 4-H delegates from across Canada and the United States demonstrated their knowledge of livestock, judging individual classes of beef and dairy cattle, light horses, sheep and swine. Competitors were marked on their class placings, as well as oral and written reasons used to support their placement decisions.

Klugkist and Dick also placed first and second in the dairy judging competition. David Trautman of New Norway ranked fifth in dairy judging. Third and fifth place swine judging honors were won by Werenka and Klugkist. Leah Dick earned second place honors in the presentation of oral reasons.

Team members from several provinces shared their judging knowledge with others during the seminar. Miss Dick noted that the British Columbia, Maritime and Alberta kids gave each other advice. "For example, I gave a Maritime guy hints on judging beef and he helped me with dairy," she said.

Other members of the Alberta Team were Candace Tegart, Calgary; Jackie Brokopp, Bashaw Beef Club; and Tracey West, Radway 4-H Multi Club.

The International 4-H Judging Seminar was sponsored by Canadian Western Agribition, John Deere Ltd., and the 4-H branch of Alberta Agriculture.

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Contact:

Elton Dunk
427-2541

January 20, 1986

For immediate release

Strathmore has new district home economist

Maureen Bolen has transferred to Alberta Agriculture's Strathmore office as district home economist. The appointment which was effective January 13 was announced by Shirley Myers, head of the home economics branch.

A native of Calgary, Mrs. Bolen graduated with distinction in 1975 from the University of Alberta with a B.Sc. in home economics. She majored in foods and nutrition.

Mrs. Bolen has been the district home economist at Taber since 1976.

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Contact:

Maureen Bolen
934-3355

January 20, 1986

For immediate release

District home economist appointed at Three Hills

Rosemary Zak has been appointed district home economist at Three Hills. The January 13 appointment was announced by Shirley Myers, head of Alberta Agriculture's home economics branch.

Ms. Zak graduated from the University of Alberta in 1980 with a B.Sc. in science, majoring in foods and nutrition. She worked as a community nutritionist in Papua, New Guinea from March 1981 to March 1983. In June 1985, Ms. Zak began training as a district home economist at Strathmore where she worked until her present appointment.

Ms. Zak will work with families in the Three Hills farm community in the areas of financial management, nutrition, marketing and time management.

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Contact:

Rosemary Zak
443-5503

January 20, 1986

For immediate release

Regional dairy specialist appointed

William Slack has been appointed regional dairy specialist for Alberta Agriculture's northwest region. Headquartered in Barrhead, he replaces Jim Eisen. The appointment, which was effective January 1, 1986, was announced by J.B. Tackaberry, director of the northwest region.

Mr. Slack graduated from the University of Guelph in 1976 majoring in animal and poultry science. After working briefly on a dairy farm in the Chilliwack area, he joined the University of British Columbia (U.B.C.) as manager of the dairy research unit. The unit was responsible for nutritional research and demonstration, and maintained a 45-head milking herd. Mr. Slack completed a Master's degree in dairy livestock management at U.B.C. in 1985.

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Contact:

William Slack
674-8264

January 20, 1986

For immediate release

Crop protection '86 registration deadline extended

The deadline for registering in Alberta Agriculture's Crop Protection '86 course has been extended to January 22, 1986.

Course information and registration forms are available from district agriculturists, agricultural fieldmen, elevator managers and UFA stores.

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Contact:

Keith Price
427-5330

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January 27, 1986

For immediate release

This Week

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January 27, 1986

For immediate release

Is your crop share lease arrangement fair and profitable?

Over the years crop share lease arrangements in the Peace River region have been typically the one-third, two-thirds or the one-quarter, three-quarters split. With the one-third, two-thirds split, the landlord pays one-third of the cost of the fertilizer and chemical and receives one-third of the revenue. With the one-quarter, three-quarters split lease, the landlord pays none of the cropping costs and receives 25 per cent of the revenue.

In the past, these lease arrangements have served the agriculture community reasonably well. Now, however, it may be time to take a close look at how fair, equitable and profitable these arrangements are for both partners. In the past several years, land values have been dropping and cropping costs such as fertilizer, chemical and fuel have been increasing. This has affected the economics of the leasing arrangements.

Harvey Glasier, Alberta Agriculture's regional economist at Fairview, says that there are many factors which must be assessed and evaluated in order to determine a fair share of revenues. "These factors are often different among farmers and landlords," he says, "and a fair share for one landlord tenant lease may not be fair for another landlord tenant lease."

(Cont'd)

Phone: (403) 427-2121

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Is your crop share lease arrangement fair and profitable? (Contd)

With this variability in mind, some typical Peace River region crop share leasing arrangements were evaluated. From this analysis it appears that as summerfallow decreases in the operation, the typical crop share leasing arrangements becomes less fair and equitable. Also, as a farmer intensifies his operation by using more fertilizer and chemical weed control, the typical crop share lease becomes more unbalanced.

The analysis indicates that a good farm operator under a continuous cropping regime who is crop share leasing, should be looking at a 75 to 80 per cent share of the gross revenue. The landlord should be getting a 20 to 25 per cent share of this revenue when he is sharing the fertilizer and chemical costs. If the landlord is not sharing the crop costs, the crop share split may be an 80 to 85 per cent share for the tenant and 15 to 20 per cent for the landlord.

Considering the economic crunch being experienced by farmers today, it is more important than ever that crop share leasing arrangements be fair and equitable. There are situations where, under typical crop share leasing arrangements, the tenant receives nothing for his labor and no return on his investment while the landlord receives a good return on his investment.

Alberta Agriculture has a booklet called *Land Leasing Agreements in Alberta*, Agdex 812-4, which provides the methodology and the worksheets required for the landlord and the tenant to work out a fair and equitable lease arrangement that suits their situation. If your crop share lease agreement is up for renewal soon, a careful analysis of the economics of it is recommended.

Contact:

Harvey Glasier
835-2291

January 27, 1986

For immediate release

Moldy hay may reduce feed intake

Many hay samples received at Alberta Agriculture's soil and feed testing laboratory in Edmonton this year have shown high moisture levels.

Moisture levels above 15 to 16 per cent can promote mold growth, says Al McNeil, Alberta Agriculture's ruminant nutritionist. "While molds can cause problems due to toxins, the major concern is reduced feed intake," he says. Animals will resist eating even slightly moldy feed because of its musty odor.

After calving, feed intake is important because energy requirements increase by 25 per cent at this time. If a cow does not increase her feed intake her body condition will drop.

This year, with many areas experiencing feed shortages, producers do not have the option of substituting other hays. Producers must use what feed they have to provide their cows with the nutrients they need to calve and become pregnant. With moldy hays, cows cannot be expected to eat more. Therefore, producers must provide their cows with the required nutrients in the same volume of feed.

(Cont'd)

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Moldy hay may reduce feed intake (Cont'd)

The best way to do this is to supplement the hay with grain or canola meal. "Depending on the quality of your feed and the nutrients required, these supplements will provide your cows with the desired nutrient levels in a more concentrated ration," says Mr. McNeil.

If you have moldy feeds Alberta Agriculture's nutritionists or regional livestock specialists can help you produce a ration that will meet your cows' needs.

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Contact:

Al McNeil
436-9150

January 27, 1986

For immediate release

Emergency grain drying

Many farmers have harvested tough or damp grain which is creating a problem in the marketing system. Farm group leaders have asked for some assistance since the grain handling system cannot cope with the large volumes of out of condition grain, says Craig Edwards with Alberta Agriculture's farm business management branch.

An emergency advance of up to $3,000 has been authorized to provide farmers with the finances to dry their grain before delivery. Most elevator managers have application forms and eligibility for advance payment can be determined on the basis of $9 per tonne of wheat ($.249 per bushel) or $11 per tonne of barley ($.239 per bushel) and $16 per tonne of oats ($.247 per bushel). The maximum advance of $3,000 will be available to dry about 12,000 bushels of grain.

As a farm manager you will have to decide if you must dry your grain and the most advantageous way to do it. As usual, you may be able to negotiate with your elevator manager for the best way to market your grain. Depending on the condition of your grain, the grade of your grain and many other factors, the elevator manager may be able to market your grain with a minimum of activity from you at the lowest cost to you.

(Cont'd)

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Emergency grain drying (Cont'd)

However, if you are unable to negotiate a good marketing deal, you may have to dry your grain to an acceptable moisture level before you can deliver it. Grain marketing firms may also offer the alternative of allowing delivery but charging discounts or penalties according to the moisture content.

The following table shows what discounts may be charged at some elevators for damp and tough grains.

	Discounts			
	Tough		Damp	
	$/Tonne	$/Bushel	$/Tonne	$/Bushel
Wheat	7	.19	14.50	.395
Barley	6	.13	12.50	.27
Oats	6.50	.135	13.50	.21
Rape	13.00	.29		

Custom drying costs

Costs of drying vary depending on conditions such as system used, outside air temperatures at time of drying, and type of grain. The most recent survey of Alberta custom operations drying rates shows rates of $22 to $130 per hour with the most common charge in the range of $35 to $60 per hour.

(Cont'd)

Emergency grain drying (Cont'd)

Drying capacity ranged from 150 to 600 bushels per hour with the most common capacity being 200 to 400 bushels per hour. Interpreting this into charges per bushel indicates a range of 14 cents to 20 cents per bushel.

Looking at the report for more specific charges reveals a wide variety of prices quoted. One shows a custom rate charged at $7.35 per tonne of wheat to dry wheat from 18.5 per cent to 14 per cent moisture content at 17.7 tonnes per hour. To compare that price with others, it is probably useful to calculate the cost per bushel. There are 2,204 pounds in a tonne and wheat is 60 pounds per bushel, therefore:

$$\frac{2204}{60} = 36.73 \text{ bushels/tonne}$$

$$\text{Cost per bushel} = \frac{\$7.35}{\$36.73} = 20 \text{ cents per bushel.}$$

Another operator reports a charge of $27 per hour plus fuel costs to dry wheat from 20 per cent to 12.5 per cent moisture at 200 bushels per hour. That is about 13.5 cents per bushel plus propane costs. An Alberta farmer experienced in grain drying provided some costs of drying on his farm. He reported propane costs of $352 for drying 2,200 bushels of wheat from 22 per cent moisture to 13.2 per cent moisture. That calculates out to be 16 cents per bushel for propane costing $1.08 per gallon. If we add 16 cents per bushel to the 13.5 cents charge (at $27 per hour) we get 29.5 cents per bushel total cost.

(Cont'd)

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Emergency grain drying (Cont'd)

The Alberta farmer also reported spending $1,496 for propane to dry 13,600 bushels of barley from the 26 - 18 per cent range down to the 12.3 - 14.3 per cent range. That is a cost of 11 cents per bushel. His propane costs for drying canola from 12.3 per cent to 9 per cent were 7.5 cents per bushel.

You might expect custom operators to quote prices for a variety of units so you will have to understand what they mean and convert them to the same units, such as cost per bushel, to make comparisons.

A custom operator with a natural gas dryer may charge less than another using propane. However, if you have to truck your grain to the natural gas dryer, you will have to add trucking costs to the drying charges.

Remember that fuel costs of drying increase as:

1. The outside temperature gets colder

2. The outside air humidity gets higher

Recent estimates in a Saskatchewan publication showed variations in propane cost per bushel to dry wheat from 17.5 to 14 per cent moisture as follows.

For 120 bushels per hour capacity dryer:

-20° = 14.27 cents
-10° = 10.73 cents
+ 10° = 7.9 cents

For 300 bushel per hour capacity dryer:

-20°C = 11.34 cents
-10°C = 8.50 cents
+ 10°C = 5.67 cents

(Cont'd)

Emergency grain drying (Cont'd)

There was also a difference in the effectiveness of the dryers, with the larger dryer costing from two to three cents less per bushel at different temperatures.

Because of cold weather custom charges are probably higher now than those reported in Alberta Agriculture's earlier survey of custom drying. A recent report of prices ranging from 25 to 37 cents per bushel to dry wheat from 19 per cent to 14.5 per cent moisture content is more realistic for colder weather.

Several publications developed by Alberta Agriculture's engineering and rural services division deal with the technical aspects of grain aeration and drying. They are available at Alberta Agriculture district offices and the Publications Office, 7000 - 113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6.

Producers should get their grain dried as soon as possible before the grain deteriorates to a condition where it has less value in the market. Weather changing from cold to warm will speed up spoilage and probably increase the demand for portable custom drying as more farmers discover that they must dry their grain in order to market it.

If you decide to hire a custom dryer, it is probably best to do so as soon as possible.

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Contact:

Craig Edwards or James Obniawka
556-4248
154-1248 (RITE)

Alberta
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Print Media Branch

Phone: (403) 427-2121

January 27, 1986

For immediate release

Accent '86 - Taking Stock

Market prospects for grains, oilseeds and livestock are the focus of Accent '86 - Taking Stock, a two-day conference sponsored by Alberta Agriculture's market analysis branch.

The farm outlook conference will be held March 11 and 12, 1986 at the Calgary Convention Centre.

As one of the opening speakers, Dr. J.A. Rosario, an agricultural economics advisor with Alberta Agriculture, will discuss United States/Canada trade issues.

Later in the afternoon, Gail Martell, with E.F. Hutton and Company Inc., Milwaukee, Wisconsin, will talk about world weather -- what is on the horizon.

On the morning of March 12, Peter Perkins, an exchange economist with the Australian Bureau of Agricultural Economics, Washington, D.C., will discuss changing world farm policy, highlighting 1985.

Robert Price, leader of the Western Livestock Marketing Information Project in Denver, Colorado, will be featured in the afternoon. He will speak on the United States cattle situation and outlook.

Later in the afternoon, Mike Sands with the department of agricultural economics at Kansas State University will talk about the United States hog situation and outlook.

(Cont'd)

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Accent '86 - Taking Stock (Cont'd)

The cost of the conference depends on how participants register. For $60, you can attend all conference sessions, the banquet and luncheon, and receive the proceedings. To attend the conference sessions only and receive the proceedings, the cost is $15. To receive the proceedings only, which will be mailed immediately after the conference, the cost is $15.

Conference registration is limited to 350 people. Alberta Agriculture must receive registration forms by February 26, 1986.

For further information on Accent '86 - Taking Stock, please contact the market analysis branch, Alberta Agriculture, 3rd Floor, 7000 113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6, telephone (403) 427-5387.

Contact:

Al Dooley
427-4002

January 27, 1986

For immediate release

Check the sodium content of your drinking water

Although consuming sodium has no apparent adverse effect on healthy people, it can worsen the illness of people who suffer from hypertension or heart disease.

Archie Archampong, a water engineer with Alberta Agriculture, says that it is important for these people to consult their physician if their drinking water contains sodium in excess of 20 milligrams per litre. The same advice goes for healthy people who drink water that contains more than 300 milligrams of sodium per litre.

Although Health and Welfare Canada has not established an acceptable maximum sodium concentration for drinking water, normal adults can consume up to 10 grams of sodium per day without suffering adverse effects.

In Alberta, the average sodium content of drinking water taken from ground water and surface water sources is 250 milligrams per litre. However, actual figures range from zero to over 5400 milligrams per litre. Sodium concentrations in excess of 500 milligrams per litre, when combined with chloride, will produce an objectionable salty taste.

Sodium gets into drinking water from rocks (feldspars), and clays. Since the sodium content of some wells may increase over time because of leakage from adjacent rocks, Mr. Archampong says that it is important to have your well water chemically analysed once every two years.

Sodium can be removed from drinking water by reverse osmosis or by the use of distillers.

(Cont'd)

Phone: (403) 427-2121

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Check the sodium content of your drinking water (Cont'd)

For further information on water sodium content and other water quality problems, contact your local health unit, regional engineering technologist or district agriculturist.

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Contact:

Archie Archampong
427-2181

January 27, 1986

For immediate release

Farming for the Future Research Conference

The Agricultural Research Council of Alberta has announced that a Farming for the Future Research Conference is scheduled for March 11 to 12, 1986. The conference will provide a forum for discussion of research findings and research policy vital to Alberta's agriculture industry.

For the past seven years Farming for the Future, Alberta's wide-ranging agricultural research funding program, has been instrumental in generating new knowledge and technology for the benefit of agricultural producers in the province.

During this period, the program, which is financed by the Alberta Heritage Savings Trust Fund, has awarded more than $32.3 million to over 580 research and demonstration projects. These studies were specifically designed to address problems affecting agricultural production in Alberta.

Scientists and farmers who have participated in Farming for the Future's Research and On-Farm Demonstration Programs will be making presentations. Following each presentation, questions will be invited from the audience. Several displays on topics of current interest will also be featured. The conference will conclude with an open forum of the government and research community.

(Cont'd)

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Farming for the Future Research Conference (Cont'd)

The themes for this year's conference are biotechnology, soil and water management, and technology transfer. The displays will feature microcomputers on the farm, steps for limiting exposure to pesticides and reducing salinity in irrigated areas.

The conference will be held in the Wildrose Ballroom at the Edmonton Inn.

For reservations and information contact: Evelyn Shapka, Research Division, Alberta Agriculture, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6, phone 427-1956.

30

Contact:

Evelyn Shapka
427-1956

January 27, 1986

For immediate release

Alberta wild rice growers hold annual symposium

The Alberta Wild Rice Growers Association will hold its annual wild rice symposium on February 13, 1986 at the Alberta Vocational Centre in Lac La Biche. The symposium will deal with the production, harvesting and marketing of wild rice.

According to Harvey Yoder, district agriculturist at Lac La Biche, wild rice may become Alberta's next cash crop. "In 1985, approximately 7000 pounds of wild rice was produced in Alberta with 800 acres of new area seeded for production in 1986," he says. He adds that Alberta's first productive stand of wild rice was established in the Athabasca area three years ago but successful test seedings have now occurred as far south as Sundre and as far north as Fort Vermilion and Fort Chipewyan.

Dr. Peter Lee, researcher from Lakehead University, will be the keynote speaker at the symposium. He will discuss managing wild rice stands and provide an update on current wild rice research in Canada.

Dr. Stu Smith will discuss water level management of lakes used for wild rice production.

Mr. Vonn Bricker from Alberta Energy and Natural Resources will provide an update on activities related to wild rice production and allocation of lakes.

David Burdek, association employee, will provide an update and progress report of association activities.

(Cont'd)

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Alberta wild rice growers hold annual symposium (Cont'd)

Several wild rice harvesters will be on display at the symposium and John Kienholz, from Alberta Agriculture's engineering branch, will discuss the principles and operation of this equipment.

The cost of the symposium is $10 including lunch. To register, send this fee to: Alberta Wild Rice Growers Association, Box 2007, Lac La Biche, Alberta, TOA 2CO.

For further information contact Harvey Yoder or David Burdek at 623-5218.

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Contact:

David Burdek or Harvey Yoder
623-5218

January 27, 1986

For immediate release

Custom livestock feeding 1985

The results of the November, 1985 survey of custom feeders have been announced by Alberta Agriculture's statistics branch and farm business management branch. Garth Nickorick, farm management economist, comments that the rates indicated are those actually charged by feedlot operators. Typically the billing to customer is based on a cost per pound of gain basis plus any extra services provided. The cost per pound of gain includes feed, yardage and bedding.

Region		Total cost ($) per lb of gain	Yardage $ per day	Bedding $ per tonne
South	Range	$.50-$.70	$.11-$.16	$32-$66
	Most Common	$.53-$.60	$.12-$.15	$42-$60
Central	Range	$.51-$.64	$.13-$.16	$20-$50
	Most Common	$.55-$.60	$.13-$.16	$30-$45
North		-	-	-

Drug charges are in addition to the cost per pound of gain quoted. They are charged on a cost plus basis. The majority of responses indicate a zero to 10 per cent mark up on the cost of the product. A significant minority charge a 20 per cent or larger mark up.

(Cont'd)

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Custom livestock feeding 1985 (cont'd)

As has been the tradition in the cattle business, a handshake makes the deal. The survey indicates that written feeding agreements have gained acceptance. Reputation of the individuals involved has allowed the verbal agreements to be continued. However, with significant dollars on the line, both feeder and cattle owner should give consideration to firming up their past understandings. Most cattlemen in the feeding business understand clearly the risks involved. Both a feedlot operator and a cattle owner may be responsible to different financial institutions. Therefore, the control of either operation may not be clear.

Overwintering cows

Region	$ Per Day
South	$1.50-$1.85
Central	$1.00-$1.25
North	-

Many of the feedlots are operating at capacity. A mild winter to date and reasonable feed costs combined with good market prices should take the sting out of last year's summer losses, says Mr. Nickorick.

Further information on livestock feeding, feed processing and fencing can be obtained by contacting district agriculturists, the statistics branch in Edmonton (427-4018) or the farm business management branch in Olds (556-4247).

Contact:

Garth Nickorick
556-4247

January 27, 1986

For immediate release

Results of custom livestock operations survey

The results of a November, 1985 survey of livestock services provided on a custom rate basis have been released by Alberta Agriculture's statistics branch and the farm business management branch. Farm management economist, Garth Nickorick, reports a good response to the survey. The rates listed below for each operation are those actually charged by custom operators.

Livestock Hauling

Miles	Possum Belly Liner	Straight Liner	Body Truck
0-50	$100-$200/load	$100-150/load	$50-$80/load
51-100	$175-$300/load	$125-$275/load	$110-$200/load
101-200	$290-$425/load	$275-$450/load	$2.00-$2.20/loaded mile
200 +	$2.40-$3.00/loaded mile	$2.25-$2.75/loaded mile	--

Grain Processing

Process	Most Common 1985	Range 1985
Grinding	$9.00-$20.00/tonne	$7.20-$30.00/tonne
Dry Rolling	$9.00-$15.00/tonne	$6.90-$17.50/tonne
Steam Rolling	$17.50-$22.00/tonne	$6.90-$25.00/tonne
Pelleting	$22.00-$30.00/tonne	$22.00-$38.80/tonne

Corral Cleaning

Type of Equipment	Range 1985
Loader, 3 spreaders, 3-5 operators	$150-$176/hour
Loader, 2 spreaders, 2-3 operators	$70-$140/hour
Loader, 1 spreader, 1-2 operators	* $55/hour

* Only one report

A common charge is based on an equipment unit of $35-$45/hour.

(Cont'd)

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Alberta
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Print Media Branch

Results of custom livestock operations survey (cont'd)

Fencing

Barbed wire fence (3-4 wire, labor and equipment only)

Construction	$1,000-$1,300/mile
Removal	$300-$500/mile
Post pounding	$20-$50/hour
	*$625/mile

* Only one report

The 1985 rates charged are five to 20 per cent lower than the 1984 charges. The range of charges has narrowed, reflecting the need to be competitive in a year of reduced farm incomes. Varied local conditions influence the rates charged in a particular area.

For further information on 1985 custom rates and a copy of the livestock services survey, contact Alberta Agriculture district offices, the statistics branch in Edmonton (427-4018) or the farm business management branch in Olds (556-4247).

Contact:

Garth Nickorick
556-4247

January 27, 1986

For immediate release

Provincial cheese and cultured products specialist appointed

The appointment of T.S. (Sam) Sohal as provincial cheese and cultured products specialist has been announced by Ken Waldon, head of Alberta Agriculture's dairy processing branch. Mr. Sohal will work at the dairy division headquarters in Wetaskiwin.

Mr. Sohal graduated from the University of Manitoba in 1979 with a B.Sc. in agriculture specializing in food science. He worked for a number of years in the dairy industry in New Zealand where he obtained several certificates and diplomas in dairy processing. After working with the University of Manitoba's food science department, Mr. Sohal joined Alberta Agriculture in Edmonton as the regional dairy specialist in 1981.

He is presently completing a Master's degree in food processing from the University of Alberta.

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Contact:

Sam Sohal
352-1220

January 27, 1986

For immediate release

District agriculturist transfers to Ryley

Tennis Marx has transferred to Alberta Agriculture's Ryley office as district agriculturist. She is working with district agriculturist, Ty Faechner.

Since 1980, Mrs. Marx worked as co-district agriculturist at the Lamont district office.

She holds a B.Sc. in agriculture from the University of Alberta.

The appointment was announced by R.F. Berkan, director for Alberta Agriculture's northeast region.

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Contact:

Tennis Marx
663-3555

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Print Media Branch

January 27, 1986

For immediate release

New dairy specialist at Vermilion

Rob Douglas has been appointed regional dairy specialist at Vermilion. The appointment was announced by R.F. Berkan, director of Alberta Agriculture's northeast region.

Mr. Douglas will be responsible for providing extension services to dairy producers in the northeast region of Alberta.

Mr. Douglas graduated from the University of British Columbia in 1980 with a B.Sc. in agriculture specializing in animal science.

From 1980 to 1985 he worked as a feed and agricultural representative with Surrey Co-operative Association in Abbottsford, British Columbia. During this time he worked with dairy producers in the Fraser Valley area dealing with feeding and dairy management.

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Contact:

Rob Douglas
853-2811

January 27, 1986

For immediate release

New district agriculturist at Lamont

R.F. Berkan, Alberta Agriculture's northeast regional director, has announced the appointment of David Wong as district agriculturist at Lamont. The appointment was effective January 6, 1986.

Mr. Wong holds a B.Sc. in agriculture from the University of Alberta where he graduated in 1977.

Mr. Wong has worked at Alberta Agriculture's district offices in Brooks and Lethbridge. For the past six years he served as co-district agriculturist at Spirit River.

In Lamont, he will be working with district agriculturist, Emile deMilliano.

30

Contact:

David Wong
895-2219

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Print Media Branch

Phone: (403) 427-2121

January 27, 1986

For immediate release

New district home economist at Drumheller

Alberta Agriculture district home economist, Catherine Wahl, has been transferred to Drumheller. For the past two years she was the district home economist at Fort Vermilion.

The January 15 appointment was announced by Shirley Myers, head of the home economics branch.

A native of Calgary, Ms. Wahl graduated in 1982 from the University of Alberta with a B.Sc. in home economics majoring in foods and nutrition.

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Contact:

Catherine Wahl
823-5740

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February 3, 1986

For immediate release

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Alberta
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February 3, 1986

For immediate release

Canada and Alberta sign agricultural processing pact

The federal government and provincial government have signed a $50 million subsidiary agreement to provide financial assistance to Alberta firms engaged in the value-added processing of agricultural products for domestic and export markets.

The details of the five-year agreement were announced on February 1, 1986 by Don Mazankowski, Minister of Transport, on behalf of Sinclair Stevens, federal Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion (DRIE), and by LeRoy Fjordbotten, Alberta's Minister of Agriculture.

The agreement's major thrust will be in the form of development assistance, designed to increase valued-added processing by encouraging private sector investment in the establishment, modernization and expansion of agricultural processing operations. A total of $38 million over five years has been allocated for this purpose.

Support is also offered to firms engaged in feasibility studies in market and investment analysis ($1.0 million over five years), research directed at new product/process development ($10.0 million over five years), and public information and technical services support ($1.0 million over five years).

(Cont'd)

Alberta
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Canada and Alberta sign agricultural processing pact (cont'd)

The agreement will replace the Nutritive Processing Agreement which expires on March 31, 1986.

A key change in the new agreement is that support for new capital projects will extend to businesses located in, or wishing to locate in, Edmonton or Calgary. Under the former agreement a business had to locate outside a 10-mile radius of the boundaries of these cities. The new agreement will provide assistance for new capital projects for up to 35 per cent of the cost of buildings and equipment if the project is located outside Edmonton or Calgary and up to 25 per cent of the cost if the project is located within these two cities.

Since 1975, Canada and Alberta have jointly funded and implemented two Nutritive Processing Assistance Agreements totalling $45 million. To date the agreements have provided support to over 400 projects, have levered in excess of $151 million in private sector investment and have assisted in the creation of close to 2,000 jobs.

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Contact:

Dr. J.E. Wiebe
427-4287

February 3, 1986

For immediate release

February deadline for Alberta Livestock Assistance Program

Livestock producers in the north-central area of the province (Zone C) who have not yet taken advantage of the Alberta Livestock Assistance Program should mark February 28 on their calendars, says Wanda Gratz, financial management assistant, with Alberta Agriculture's farm business management branch in Olds. After February 28, 1986 applications to this program will no longer be accepted.

The Alberta Livestock Assistance program provides assistance supplementary to the previous 1985-86 Canada/Alberta Livestock Drought Assistance program. The application deadline for Canada/Alberta Livestock Drought Assistance programs was December 13, 1985. The development of the Alberta Livestock Assistance program this fall provided all Alberta livestock producers with the opportunity of receiving assistance for each eligible animal, the intention being to assist producers in maintaining viable breeding herds and flocks.

Very simply stated, these two programs combined provide an initial payment of $50 per eligible beef, dairy and bison cow and bred heifer, bred mare and filly owned by the applicant on September 1, 1985. A supplemental payment of $25 per eligible animal will be based on animals owned by the applicant on April 1, 1986.

(Cont'd)

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February deadline for Alberta Livestock Assistance (cont'd)

For other livestock, the initial payment is $10 per eligible ewe and doe goat owned by the applicant on September 1, 1985. A supplemental payment of $5 per eligible animal will be based on animals owned on April 1, 1986.

To qualify, the applicant must be a Canadian citizen or landed immigrant who owned a minimum of five eligible animals on September 1, 1985. Complete applications must be returned to district agriculturists for their signature by no later than February 28, 1986.

Program brochures containing a complete explanation of the eligibility rules are available from Alberta Agriculture district offices or from the Alberta Livestock Assistance Program, 7000-113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6, telephone 422-5300.

30

Contact:

Wanda Gratz
556-4240

February 3, 1986

For immediate release

Second Century conference proceedings now available

In November 1985, leaders from Alberta's agricultural industry gathered to discuss the prospects for agriculture in Alberta at the Second Century conference. Now, the proceedings from this highly successful conference are available in a book entitled, *Second Century: Proceedings*.

LeRoy Fjordbotten, Alberta's minister of agriculture, says that the book covers the issues that affect everyone in the agricultural industry from farmers to processers to retailers. "By being informed of these issues you become part of the process of planning for our second century," he says.

The book contains speeches from producers, business people, scientists and policy advisors on such key issues as: the world outlook for food production and consumption, the implications of freer trade with the United States, food processing trends, Alberta food product marketing, the potential of our renewable resources, technological needs of the agricultural industry and how to solve current problems of farm finance.

To order this book, send a cheque or money order ($5 per copy) made payable to the Provincial Treasurer of Alberta. Mail to: Supervisor of Publications & Statutes, Queen's Printer Building, 11510 - Kingsway Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta, T5G 2Y5.

(Cont'd)

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Second Century conference proceedings now available (cont'd)

Brochures containing detailed information on *Second Century: Proceedings* are available from Alberta Agriculture district offices or the market analysis branch, 3rd floor, 7000 - 113 St., Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6, telephone 427-7132.

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Contact:

David Walker
427-7132

February 3, 1986

For immediate release

1984 vegetable production survey results

This past summer, Alberta Agriculture's statistics branch carried out a detailed survey of vegetable growers in Alberta.

"Growers involved in all types of vegetable production, from processing to U-pick, were interviewed," says Rodney Dlugos, crop statistician with Alberta Agriculture.

He says that the main goals of the survey were to: estimate the number of acres devoted to vegetable production over the past two years, estimate the total value of vegetables produced in 1984, and develop a system that would allow the branch to provide the most current production information to vegetable growers, as well as other parties interested in Alberta's vegetable industry.

The results of the survey have now been processed and summarized. Approximately 7,200 acres of vegetables were harvested in 1984. About 55 per cent of this acreage involved vegetables grown for processing with the remaining 45 per cent consisting of market garden and fresh wholesale vegetable acreages. Almost 1,000 additional acres were planted but were not harvested because of early snow and frosts. The value of vegetable production (excluding greenhouses) in 1984 amounted to a total of almost $13 million. Market gardens captured almost half of this value, just over $6 million. Fresh wholesale growers earned $4.4 million and processing vegetable growers $2.5 million. Preliminary estimates indicate that 11,500 acres of vegetables were planted in 1985.

(Cont'd)

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1984 vegetable production survey results (Cont'd)

Mr. Dlugos says that a follow-up survey on the 1985 crop is now being analysed with both acreage and production expected to be higher than 1984.

30

Contact:

Rodney Dlugos
427-4011

February 3, 1986

For immediate release

Canadian swine breeding stock a success in Japan

(Front row) Three award-winning swine producers from Takahashi Bunsuke Shoten, (center back row) Nikon Nosan president, Shigekatzu Okamoto.

After being awarded several top prizes at the Nosan Farm 10th Annual Pork Congress, the Japanese co-op, Takahashi Bunsuke Shoten (TBS), attributes its success to Canadian swine breeding stock from Alberta.

The congress was held in November in Yonezawa city, in Yamagata prefecture, located about 300 kilometres northeast of Tokyo.

(Cont'd)

Alberta
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Canadian swine breeding stock a success in Japan (Cont'd)

Ab Barrie, Alberta Agriculture's trade director for Japan and Korea, based in Tokyo, reports that TBS is a 500-sow farrow to finish operation, jointly owned by 15 commercial swine breeders. The group markets an average of 18 head of swine per sow every year.

In 1968 TBS founded the Nosan pork study group to improve breeding stock and management techniques. At the time, their breeding stock was mainly European (i.e.,Yorkshire, Landrace, Hampshire). In 1975, Nosan Farm began introducing Yorkshire (large/white) stock from Canada which adapted well to the Yonezawa area. Since then, the group has continued to improve the productivity and quality of their stock by purchasing Canadian/Alberta Yorkshire and Duroc stock each year.

Jackson Gardner, Alberta Agriculture international trade director for the Pacific/Asia sector, says that this is just one example of the reputation Alberta has developed for swine breeding stock in the Far East.

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Contact:

Jackson Gardner
427-4241

February 3, 1986

For immediate release

Milking cows need extra phosphorus at calving

Calving time is fast approaching and with it comes the need to supply additional phosphorus to your milking cows.

According to Al McNeil, Alberta Agriculture's ruminant nutritionist, this mineral is essential for efficient calf growth and plays an important part in reproduction. A cow not receiving enough phosphorus in the ration must obtain it from her body reserves, he says. This in turn delays the reproductive cycle and may prevent her from producing a new calf altogether.

Grains and canola meal, in addition to commercial mineral supplements, are good sources of phosphorus.

A cow weighing 550 kilograms needs about twice as much phosphorus while milking compared to the dry period. If the 550 kilogram cow is a heavy milker she will need three times more phosphorus. Here is a sample ration based on feeds analysed this fall:

(kg/head/day)	Calving	Lactating	
		Average	Superior
Brome clover hay	12.75	11.25	11.25
Barley grain	--	2.25	4.0
1:1 mineral (g)	--	56.0	84.0

Plus trace minerals and vitamins

Calving = six weeks before to three weeks after calving

Average lactating = 4.5 kg/day; superior lactating = 9 kg/day.

(Cont'd)

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Milking cows need extra phosphorus at calving (cont'd)

This table shows that a feed providing all of the necessary phosphorus before calving will have to be supplemented with up to 84 grams of 1:1 mineral if the cow is a superior milker. Note that this level of supplementation is higher than most cows would eat free choice. It is suggested that the 1:1 mineral be thoroughly blended with the grain portion of the ration.

Check with an Alberta Agriculture nutritionist or regional livestock specialist to see if the ration you are feeding will meet your phosphorus requirement. If it does not he will be able to provide you with a supplementation method to ensure your cattle receive enough mineral.

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Contact:

Al McNeil
436-9150

February 3, 1986

For immediate release

How to make meetings productive

Farmers are active people who are often involved in many different agricultural organizations and activities that require them to attend regular formal meetings.

To help them optimize the time spent at these meetings, Alberta Agriculture has introduced the factsheet, *Parliamentary Procedure At a Glance, Agdex 057*. It briefly outlines the rules that help make formal meetings run smoothly and productively, with few disagreements.

The factsheet originated with the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food and has been reprinted by Alberta Agriculture's farm business management branch in Olds.

Copies of this publication are available from Alberta Agriculture district offices or the Publications Office, 7000 113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6.

Farmers who are interested in learning more about meeting skills are invited to participate in a free, pre-conference seminar on Monday, March 17. "Meeting Skills" will be held in conjunction with this year's Managing Agricultural Technology for Profit conference at the Chateau Lake Louise, March 17 to 20.

For further information contact George Maicher or James Obniawka at the farm business management branch, 556-4240.

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Contact:

George Maicher or James Obniawka
556-4240

February 3, 1986

For immediate release

Propane grant applications must be complete

Farmers applying for a rebate on propane (or heating oil) purchases are reminded that section 12 of the application form must be completed by the natural gas distributor for the area, whether or not natural gas service can be provided.

Alberta Utilities and Telecommunications, which administer the Remote Area Heating Allowance Program through which these grants are provided, has indicated that some farmers are submitting incomplete application forms. This delays the approval process, as an incomplete form will be returned to the farmer so that the missing information can be provided.

Farmers may be eligible for grants for propane used in portable grain dryers even if their area is serviced by a natural gas distributor.

For further information contact: Rebates Branch, Alberta Utilities and Telecommunications, Edmonton, 427-0122.

30

Contact:

Rebates Branch
427-0122

February 3, 1986

For immediate release

Good nutrition and cancer

One aspect of cancer research that is receiving a lot of attention these days is the search for a link between diet and cancer. Our diets have often been implicated as a possible cause of cancer. On the other hand several nutrients have been promoted as having the power to prevent or cure cancer.

A great deal of controversy surrounds the subject and much more research is needed to come up with definite answers, says Diane Bourne, Alberta Agriculture's regional food and nutrition specialist at Barrhead.

In the meantime, she says, there is no doubt that sensible eating habits play an important role in keeping our bodies healthy. The Canadian Cancer Society has made six recommendations to help us achieve good eating habits.

Eat less fat. Choose lean cuts of meat, poultry and fish, and trim all visible fat. Choose cooking methods such as baking, broiling, or poaching which don't add extra fat. Limit the use of margarine, butter, oil, salad dressings, gravy and rich sauces.

Eat more fibre. Whole grain breads and cereals as well as raw fruits and vegetables contribute fibre to the diet.

(Cont'd)

hone: (403) 427-2121

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
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Good nutrition and cancer (cont"d)

Eat several servings of fruits and vegetables. Canada's Food Guide recommends four to five servings daily. In addition to containing fibre, fruits and vegetables are an excellent source of vitamins and minerals. Select a variety of vitamin-rich foods rather than relying on vitamin supplements.

Maintain ideal weight. Eating a few less calories and increasing physical activity are the healthiest ways to loss weight.

Minimize your consumption of salt-cured, pickled and smoked foods. In other words choose a wide variety of meats such as fresh or frozen lean beef, pork, chicken and fish. Enjoy ham, bacon, weiners, bologna, and smoked or pickled fish in moderation.

If alcohol is consumed, have a limit of two or fewer drinks per day. The development of cancer is influenced by genetics, lifestyle, cultural patterns, health status, exposure to specific carcinogens, and other unknown factors. Good nutrition helps build a healthy body, reducing the risk of cancer.

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Contact:

Diane Bourne
674-8253

February 3, 1986

For immediate release

Production technology for canola and barley

"Leading Edge of Production Technology for Canola and Barley" is the focus of a series of meetings scheduled for February 12 to 14 in northern Alberta.

The meetings are jointly sponsored by Alberta Agriculture, the Alberta Canola Growers Association and the Western Barley Growers Association.

The meetings will be held 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Westlock Inn on February 12, the Spruce Grove Inn on February 13 and the Wayside Inn at Westaskiwin on February 14.

Topics will include recent developments in biotechnology, hybrid canola, cereal breeding, and grain and oilseeds markets. A panel of local producers will discuss their ideas for the future, completing the agenda.

The registration fee for the meeting and lunch is $15. Please register early by contacting the appropriate Alberta Agriculture district office at Westlock (349-4465), Spruce Grove - Stony Plain (963-6101), and Wetaskiwin (352-1240).

For more information contact the Alberta Canola Growers (454-0844), Western Barley Growers (291-3630) or Bill Chapman, regional crop production specialist, Barrhead (674-8258).

30

Contact:

Bill Chapman
674-8258

February 3, 1986

For immediate release

New district home economist at Lac La Biche

Tracy L. Hamilton is the new district home economist at Alberta Agriculture's Lac La Biche office. The appointment, which was effective January 13, 1986, was announced by Shirley Myers, head of the home economics branch.

From June 1985 until her present appointment, Ms. Hamilton trained as a district home economist at Spirit River.

A native of Lethbridge, Ms. Hamilton graduated from the University of Alberta in 1985 with a B.Sc. in home economics. She majored in clothing and textiles.

30

Contact:

Tracy Hamilton
623-5218

February 3, 1986

For immediate release

Sangudo has new district home economist

Lori Leonard has joined Alberta Agriculture's Sangudo office as district home economist. The appointment which was effective January 1, 1986 was announced by Shirley Myers, head of the home economics branch.

Miss Leonard is a native of Medicine Hat. She graduated from the University of Alberta in 1983 with a B.Sc. in home economics majoring in clothing and textiles.

Over the past year, Miss Leonard worked as a district home economist in Medicine Hat and in Pincher Creek on a temporary basis.

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Contact:

Lori Leonard
785-2266

February, 3, 1985

For immediate release

Alberta begins overhaul of Crop Insurance Program

Alberta's Minister of Agriculture, LeRoy Fjordbotten, announced on January 29, 1986 that the Agriculture and Rural Economy Committee of Cabinet has approved his recommendation that the provincial government conduct a major and comprehensive overhaul of Alberta's crop insurance program.

The process, which will start immediately, will be guided by a producer-government steering committee chaired by Dallas Schmidt, former minister of agriculture. Mr. Schmidt's appointment is effective February 1, 1986, with further appointments from the public and the legislature to the steering committee to be made in the near future.

Said Mr. Fjordbotten, "Alberta producers have faced two consecutive years of weather problems and, in addition, 1985 was one of the worst harvests, weatherwise, in about 20 years. As a result of these factors, farmers have expressed a number of concerns about the adequacy of the program. It is time we take a good, hard look at our crop insurance program to ensure that it is meeting the needs of producers, and if it isn't, let's improve it. We are currently reviewing our program to determine what short term changes can be made for 1986, but major or long term changes will take time and the extent of these changes will be determined by our comprehensive review."

(Cont'd)

Alberta
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Alberta begins overhaul of Crop Insurance Program (Cont'd)

Public forums will be conducted throughout Alberta during 1986 by the steering committee as part of the review process. The review will be conducted as quickly as possible and potential changes will be negotiated with the federal government for implementation. Farm organizations, commodity groups and producers will be encouraged to make appropriate submissions to this public forum process.

"Our major objective is to develop a more comprehensive program, one that is effective and thus reducing the need for ad hoc programs in our crop sector. Our crop insurance program must be overhauled and updated so that it meets farmer needs in the 1980's and beyond," said the minister.

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Contact:

Jim Armet
Executive Assistant to the Minister
427-2137

AGRI-NEWS

February 10, 1986

For immediate release

This Week

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February 10, 1986

For immediate release

February is Meat Awareness Month

February is Meat Awareness Month. Its theme is meat makes sense, and its purpose is to point out meat's many positive features in the diet, and its role in the economy. In Alberta, meat processing employs about 5500 people.

Susan Kitchen, Alberta Agriculture's market development director in Calgary is a member of the Alberta's Meat Awarenesss Month committee. She says that they are working closely with meat retailers and packers to heighten awareness of the campaign.

People who maintain a healthy lifestyle can eat red meat regularly without endangering their health. Contrary to the popular notion that cutting out meat from your diet will reduce your chances of heart disease, for the average person a common-sense approach will be much more effective. That means regular exercise, maintenance of a reasonable weight, controlling stress and not smoking.

Meat is an excellent source of high-quality protein; it provides all the essential amino acids required by the body. One serving provides more than half the protein a person needs daily, about one-third of the thiamin and substantial amounts of iron, phosphorus and riboflavin.

Keeping pace with today's lighter eating trends, the meat industry offers beef and pork that is 35 to 50 per cent leaner than 15 years ago. This is due to improved breeding, feeding and grading methods.

(Cont'd)

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February is Meat Awareness Month (Cont'd)

Meat makes economic sense too. Consumers should consider cost per serving rather than price per kilogram or pound. Most boneless cuts of meat will yield more servings per kilogram than bone-in cuts or poultry. A boneless roast of meat, for example, will yield five to seven servings per kilogram.

In Alberta, the sponsors of Meat Awareness Month are the Canadian Meat Council, the Alberta Pork Producers Marketing Board, the Alberta Sheep and Wool Commission, the Alberta Cattle Commission and Alberta Agriculture.

30

Contact:

Susan Kitchen
297-8452

February 10, 1986

For immediate release

New program trains job-seekers for career in 26 weeks

Choosing a career -- or even finding a job -- isn't easy these days. Lack of education or experience can make job hunting a nightmare. On the other hand, intensification and marketing changes in some sectors of agricultural production have created a real need for capable workers.

Olds College, in conjunction with Alberta Agriculture, has taken these facts in hand and has developed a training program to benefit both job-seekers and employers in the swine production industry.

With funding from Canada Manpower, Olds College and Alberta Agriculture are now offering a 26-week certificate program in swine production at Olds College. While attending this course, students are eligible to receive a training allowance from Canada Manpower.

The program, open to adults with at least a Grade 8 education, is designed to help them master the basic skills required to work in a large, intensive, commercial swine operation. The program covers handling swine, managing feed, waste, and production, maintaining herd health and breeding, and marketing. In addition, at least 20 per cent of instruction time is devoted to building basic employment skills.

Students spend 16 weeks in a combination of classroom training, lectures, laboratories, and "hands-on" training at the Olds College swine barn, a state-of-the-art facility capable of producing 2,000 market pigs per year.

(Cont'd)

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New program trains job-seekers for career in 26 weeks (cont'd)

During the final 10 weeks of the program, students try their hand at what they've learned and gain practical experience through on-the-job training with participating hog producers within a 200 kilometre radius of the college.

Both Olds College and Alberta Agriculture provide instructors and swine specialists for the program.

Dr. Leo Abenes, an Olds College instructor who helped develop the program, says he believes the career prospects for students graduating from this program are excellent.

"The swine industry has intensified to the degree that 25 per cent of the producers now produce 75 per cent of all hogs marketed in Alberta," he explains. "The trend toward larger and more complex commercial operations will continue, and most swine operations in the future will require manpower beyond what's available from owner-operators. We hope to fill that gap."

The program takes in two new students every two months, and hopes to graduate 12 people in its first year.

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Contact:

Department of Continuing Education, Olds College
(403) 556-8322

February 10, 1986

For immediate release

Underfeeding pregnant heifers

Many cow-calf producers feel that restricting feed during late pregnancy is a good way to reduce calving difficulty in beef heifers Some of these producers also feel that grain feeding will cause large calves and therefore increased calving difficulty. However, research results to date don't agree with this line of thought, says Dale Engstrom, ruminant nutritionist with Alberta Agriculture.

Heifers utilize nutrients from their feed supplies to maintain their body tissue and to feed the fetal calf. "It does not matter whether the needed nutrients come from hay straw, grain or other feeds as long as they are provided in the right amount in the daily ration," says Mr. Engstrom.

Feeding below recommended levels will slightly reduce birth weight of calves. However, this does not reduce calving difficulty because reduced energy intake reduces the size of the heifer herself. Specifically, the pelvis opening is reduced in underfed heifers and no reduction in calving difficulty is observed. Underfeeding heifers does result in lower calf survival rates, less milk for calf growth and rebreeding is more difficult. However, overfeeding in late pregnancy, causing heifers to become fat, is associated with increased calving difficulty and should be avoided.

(Cont'd)

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Underfeeding pregnant heifers (Cont'd)

Successfully managing the replacement heifer program is a real challenge for the cow-calf producer. Feeding to meet the requirements for growth, pregnancy, milk production and rebreeding is a major part of the total program. The following rations are examples of what a 900 pound pregnant heifer requires in a daily ration for the last six weeks before calving

amount/head/day - as fed basis

1		2	
Good alfalfa grass hay	22 lb	Average grass hay	17 lb
18:18 mineral	9 g	Barley grain	4 lb
		18:18 mineral	14 g

3		4	
Good barley greenfeed	21 lb	Barley straw	14 lb
		Barley grain	5.5 lb
		32% beef supplement	1.5 lb

(Cont'd)

Underfeeding pregnant heifers (Cont'd)

A daily intake of 30 to 40 grams of trace mineralized salt is also recommended and rations 1, 2 and 3 require vitamin A supplementation. These rations are based on average analysis results and a producer's feeds may be quite different in nutrient content. Producers can contact an Alberta Agriculture regional livestock specialist to obtain balanced rations based on their feeds.

Contact:

Dale Engstrom
436-9150

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Print Media Branch
Phone: (403) 427-2121

February 10, 1986

For immediate release

Salt products should contain enough iodine

Although iodized salt products help eliminate cases of iodine deficiency in cattle, producers should still ensure that adequate levels of this element are contained in the salt products they use.

According to Alberta Agriculture ruminant nutritionist Al McNeil, cases of goiter do arise because of insufficient iodine in the feed. He also says that many more general iodine related problems, such as reduced fertility or reproductive failure, may go undiagnosed.

An animal's iodine requirement is influenced by its environment and the feed it eats. As winter temperatures become colder, increased body activity requires higher levels of iodine. Certain types of feeds such as kale and some weed seeds may increase iodine requirements, and high levels of arsenic, fluorine or calcium can interfere with iodine in the body.

Iodine is usually added to processed salt products; look for iodine levels of about 0.01 per cent. "An Alberta Agriculture nutritionist can determine if the salt you are using contains enough iodine," says Mr. McNeil. "If it does not, recommendations for supplementing the diet can be obtained."

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Contact:

Al McNeil
436-9150

February 10, 1986

For immediate release

Alberta soil science workshop

The 22nd annual Alberta Soil Science Workshop (ASSW), a forum for discussion of soils issues in Alberta, will be held February 25 and 26, 1986. The workshop will present the latest research and information on soil management and conservation.

"Soil quality and how it affects us" will be discussed by several speakers: W.Pettapiece, Agriculture Canada; G. Mathison and M. Gee, University of Alberta; W McGregor, Elanco; D. McCoy, Canterra Energy Ltd.; and M. Ross, Crows Nest Resources L

Special sessions will also be offered on soil fertility, soil conservation, soil reclamation and soil inventory.

The workshop will be held at the Sheraton-Cavalier Hotel in Calgary. The cost for full registration which includes the banquet, lunch and a copy of the proceedings is $60 prior to February 21; $65 after February 21. The cost of registration excluding the banquet is $45 prior to February 21; $50 after February 21.

Further information and registration forms can be obtained from: Dr. J.F. Dormaar, Agriculture Canada Research Station, Lethbridge, Alberta, T1J 4Bl, telephone 327-4561

(Cont'd)

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Phone: (403) 427-2121

Alberta soil science workshop scheduled (cont'd)

Coinciding with ASSW, on February 26 and 27, is the Western Enviro-Agricultural Laboratory Association workshop. It will focus on soil analysis and its impact on agriculture and resource industries. This workshop will also be held at the Sheraton Cavalier in Calgary. Further information is available from Jim Campbell, telephone 290-7347.

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Contact:
Dr. J.F. Dormaar
327-4561

Jim Campbell
290-7347

February 10, 1986

For immediate release

4-H show nears quarter century

The television series, 4-H Clubtime, celebrates its 24th birthday Monday, February 17.

The episode which will be broadcast throughout Alberta on that day, as part of the 26-program series, is very different from the program that went on the air exactly 24 years earlier. The upcoming program "4-H Voyageur" will be broadcast to thousands of Alberta homes by satellite and cable.

Twenty-four years earlier, a 15-minute black and white studio interview, featuring CFRN-TV staff announcer Bob Carlyle, interviewing then 4-H supervisor, Les Usher, was broadcast throughout the Edmonton area. In that first program, Mr. Usher described the philosophy and activities of 4-H in Alberta. About 640 Clubtime episodes have been produced and broadcast since then.

The television series switched from black and white to color and was expanded from 15 minutes to 30 minutes during the late 1960's. It was about that time the series was extended to include Calgary area viewers over CFCN-TV.

(Cont'd)

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4-H show nears quarter century (cont'd)

"We have a very important and valuable opportunity in producing Clubtime programs," says series executive producer, Bob Coe. "With the number of programs we've shot throughout Alberta, we've been able to record many aspects of agricultural Alberta for our historical archives." Thousands of feet of film and videotape which were used to produce the two decades of programs have been collected and stored in a 4-H Clubtime archival vault. Coe has managed to safely store most of the 180 episodes he has produced during the past seven years.

"I expect we'll draw heavily from our archival Clubtime footage as we produce programs for this coming season," Coe said. "Few television series have lived to celebrate a 25th aniversary. This year, we'll want to look to the past, at the growth of 4-H in Alberta during this past quarter century."

The current season of programs will end March 29. The upcoming season is scheduled to begin in early October. The series is presently seen province-wide, 10 o'clock Saturday morning on CBC television and 5:30 Monday evening on the ACCESS network.

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Contact:

Bob Coe
427-2541

February 10, 1986

For immediate release

Sources of farm business credit in Alberta

To help producers compare alternative sources of credit available to them for their farm business, Alberta Agriculture's farm business management branch has prepared a publication entitled *Sources of Farm Business Credit in Alberta*.

This publication is updated on a regular basis and outlines the credit options that are available to farmers in this province, including the farm loan programs that are available through chartered banks, treasury branches, credit unions, the federal Farm Credit Corporation and the provincial Agricultural Development Corporation. It also offers advice on where to seek financing for credit needs that are not covered by the more traditional agricultural lenders.

The first part of the publication outlines some key rules for the sound use of credit and provides some tips to be considered when dealing with creditors.

The centre-fold contains a chart summarizing the long-term financing that is available to farmers at banks, credit unions, treasury branches and government agencies. Of particular interest to many farmers will be the availability and terms of fixed interest rates, and allowances and penalties for prepayments at the various financial institutions.

This booklet also outlines some of the various financial management counselling services provided by the public and private sector.

(Cont'd)

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Sources of farm business credit in Alberta (cont'd)

Wanda Gratz of Alberta Agriculture's farm business management branch says that some changes have taken place in the credit field since the January 1985 edition of *Sources of Farm Business Credit in Alberta* was published.

Under the Agricultural Development Corporation (ADC) Beginning Farmer Program, borrowers now have the option of phasing into the beginning farmer program in up to three stages, rather than two.

Canadian Wheat Board Emergency Advance payments are available to producers who are unable to thresh their grain owing to unusual weather conditions, and for drying damp or tough grain when caused by unusual weather conditions or when there are large quantities to be dried.

Copies of *Sources of Farm Business Credit in Alberta*, Agdex 832, can be obtained from Alberta Agriculture district offices, the farm business management branch, Box 2000, Olds, Alberta T0M 1P0; or by writing to the Publications Office, 7000 - 113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6.

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Contact:

Wanda Gratz
556-4240

AGRI-NEWS

February 17, 1985

For immediate release

This Week

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February 17, 1986

For immediate release

Potential for severe wind erosion in Alberta

The potential for severe wind erosion in Alberta this year is, once again, great. John Timmermans, a soil conservation specialist with Alberta Agriculture, says that some 8.6 million acres in the province are at a high or very high risk.

Summerfallow, winter wheat and some special crop acreages are at greatest risk he says. The problem can be attributed to the successive growing season droughts in 1984 and 1985 which resulted in low crop yields and low levels of crop residue, particularly on summerfallow. Winter wheat acreage is at a high risk of soil erosion because most of it was seeded into summerfallow, and poor conditions in the fall stopped growth before adequate soil protection was achieved.

	Area	
Rated Potential	**Million Acres**	**Million Hectares**
Very High	1.3	0.5
High	7.3	2.9
Moderate	13.3	5.4
Low	16.9	6.8

(Cont'd)

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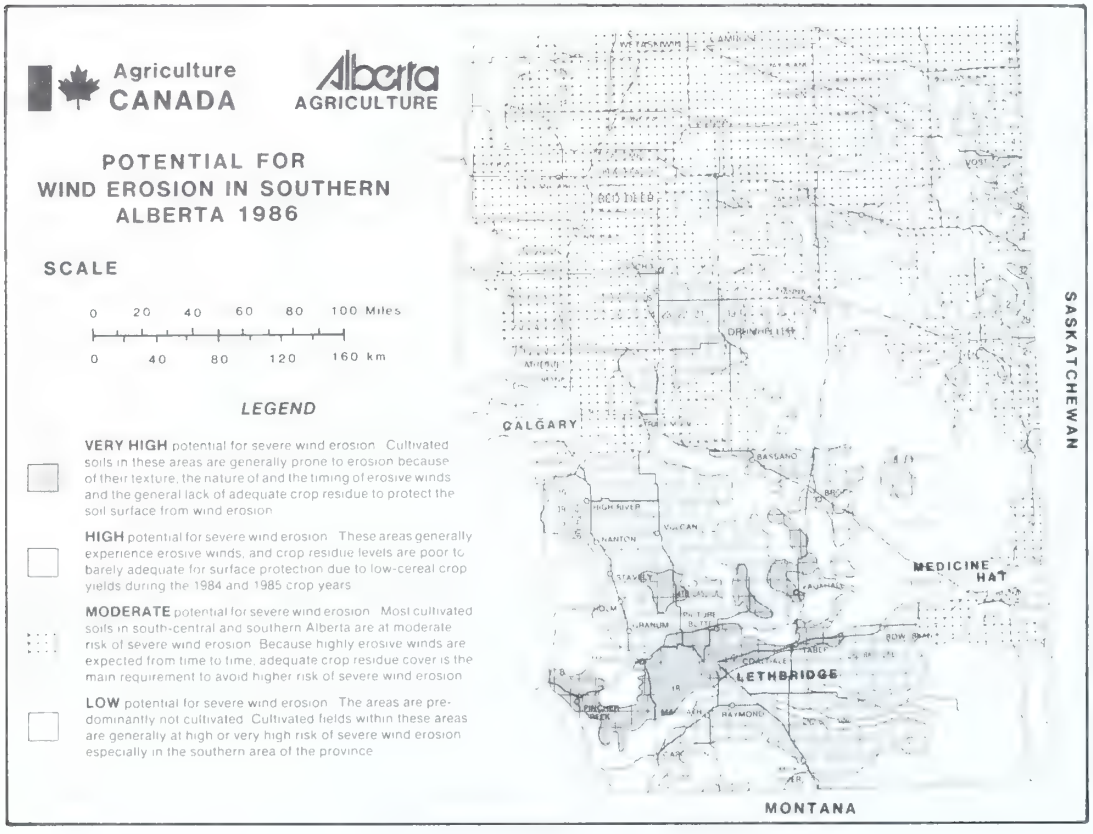
Potential for severe wind erosion in Alberta (cont'd)

One positive influence on the 1986 wind erosion problem was the short fall season after the 1985 harvest which resulted in less fall cultivation than might otherwise have been the case. Also, the rain which frequently interrupted last year's harvest encouraged the re-growth of weeds and volunteer crops. "This reduction in tillage and increase in late growth has lowered the potential for erosion significantly from what it could have been," says Mr. Timmermans.

To help outline the wind erosion problem in Alberta and increase awareness of it, Alberta Agriculture, in cooperation with Agriculture Canada, has prepared a map indicating the areas in Alberta which have potential for severe wind erosion.


Agriculture CANADA
Alberta AGRICULTURE
POTENTIAL FOR WIND EROSION IN SOUTHERN ALBERTA 1986
SCALE
0 20 40 60 80 100 Miles
0 40 80 120 160 km
LEGEND
VERY HIGH potential for severe wind erosion. Cultivated soils in these areas are generally prone to erosion because of their texture, the nature of and the timing of erosive winds and the general lack of adequate crop residue to protect the soil surface from wind erosion.
HIGH potential for severe wind erosion. These areas generally experience erosive winds, and crop residue levels are poor to barely adequate for surface protection due to low-cereal crop yields during the 1984 and 1985 crop years.
MODERATE potential for severe wind erosion. Most cultivated soils in south-central and southern Alberta are at moderate risk of severe wind erosion. Because highly erosive winds are expected from time to time, adequate crop residue cover is the main requirement to avoid higher risk of severe wind erosion.
LOW potential for severe wind erosion. The areas are predominantly not cultivated. Cultivated fields within these areas are generally at high or very high risk of severe wind erosion especially in the southern area of the province.
CALGARY
MEDICINE HAT
LETHBRIDGE
SASKATCHEWAN
MONTANA

(Cont'd)

Potential for severe wind erosion in Alberta (cont'd)

Factors that were considered when preparing the map include the soil type (texture), erosivity of the wind and present land use (cultivated or grassland). In terms of potential for wind erosion, these factors are relatively constant from year to year, says Mr. Timmermans.

In addition, variable factors such as tillage and cropping practices, successive growing season droughts, and fall weather conditions in 1985 were considered.

Contact:

John Timmermans
948-5101

Alberta
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Phone: (403) 427-2121

February 17, 1986

For immediate release

1985 highway accidents involving farm equipment

In 1985, there were 77 highway accidents in Alberta involving farm equipment in which four people died and 15 were injured. Collisions were the primary form of accidents, and the four most common contributing factors of such collisions were: equipment or vehicle extending into another lane, motorists following too closely, improper turning and slippery roads.

These and other statistics are contained in a summary of 1985 highway accidents involving farm equipment prepared by Alberta Agriculture's farm safety program.

"Considering that almost the same number of accidents were caused by farm equipment operators as motorists, it is important that we make motorists equally aware of the dangers of driving around farm equipment on the highway," says Solomon Kyeremanteng, manager of the farm safety program. He says that motorists should be reminded not only to watch for farm equipment on the highway but to respond safely to such traffic.

(Cont'd)

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1985 highway accidents involving farm equipment (cont'd)

Through charts and tables, the publication outlines: the age groups most frequently involved in accidents, the types of equipment involved, when accidents occurred, how they occurred, and the contributing factors and regional distribution of accidents.

The summary is available from the farm safety program, Alberta Agriculture, 2nd Floor, 7000 - 113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6, phone 427-2186.

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Contact:

Solomon Kyeremanteng
427-2186

February 17, 1986

For immediate release

Germination tests should be done

Reports from the three accredited seed-testing labs in Alberta indicate that low germination is a problem with seed from the 1985 harvest. As a result, all producers are encouraged to do a germination test on any seed they plan to use for the 1986 seeding, says Bill Witbeck, supervisor of seed technology at Alberta Agriculture's field crops branch in Lacombe.

Low germination is a direct result of embryo damage caused by either frost or dormancy. The general consensus among officials at the labs is that the dormant period for the cereals is almost over.

"The cereals, especially the oats, seem to be the hardest hit," says Mr. Witbeck. "Canolas seem to be okay."

The labs -- Plant Products, Norwest Labs, and the Alberta Wheat Pool in Camrose -- can perform a germination test for about $10 to $18 per sample. Producers should send a 100 to 300 gram sample that has been air-dried by a household register at room temperature for one week, then placed in an enclosed container in a fridge or freezer for another week. This will aid in breaking dormancy if it is still present.

(Cont'd)

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Germination test should be done (cont'd)

Producers who do not want to send samples to a lab can perform a home germination test by following these procedures: After drying and chilling, the seed samples can be placed on germination blotters. This process can be done at room temperature but make sure that the blotter remains damp or wet but not excessively so. After a few days, a fairly accurate assessment of the seed can be made.

There are also chemical tests which the labs can use for breaking dormancy. A tetrazolium test, for example, will provide an accurate (within five per cent) indication of the seed's potential for germination.

For further information on germination testing contact one of the three accredited seed-testing labs in Alberta or Bill Witbeck, field crops branch, Alberta Agriculture, phone 782-4641.

Contact:

Bill Witbeck
423-4214
or
782-4641

February 17, 1986

For immediate release

Producers should consider triticale as an alternate feed source

Triticale, a cereal grain that was developed by crossing wheat and rye, has found renewed interest by livestock producers as an alternate feed source.

Dale ZoBell, Alberta Agriculture's regional livestock specialist in Red Deer, says that triticale is being grown in many parts of Alberta because of its relatively drought resistant characteristics. Also, unlike early varieties which were subject to ergot, newer varieties are much more resistant.

The expected yield of triticale is normally below barley but greater than spring wheat. However, its higher protein and energy levels compared to barley, the predominant livestock feedstuff, makes it attractive to producers.

In 1984, Alberta Agriculture funded a growing and feeding trial in central Alberta in cooperation with Shur Gain Feeds of Red Deer. Specific grain producers in the Stettler area were encouraged to grow triticale that spring. Part of the triticale that was harvested was used as the grain portion of a feedlot trial conducted by Mr. ZoBell and FEM Farms of Lacombe.

The nutrient analysis indicated that the triticale was about six per cent higher in crude protein on a dry matter basis and about 10 per cent higher in digestible energy than barley, with calcium and phosphorus being very similar.

(Cont'd)

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Producers should consider triticale as an alternate feed source (cont'd)

In the trial, 200 steers weighing approximately 760 pounds were randomly assigned one of two treatments with two pens per treatment. Steers in two pens were fed a barley based finishing ration while those in the other two pens were fed a triticale based ration to slaughter weight (102 days).

The results indicated that the steers fed the barley based ration adapted to their ration faster than triticale fed steers resulting in a lower dry matter intake and average daily gain (ADG). Overall ADG and feed to gain ratios for barley versus triticale fed steers were 3.40 pounds per day and 6.76, versus 2.9 pounds per day and 7.14 respectively.

The results reflect the slower adaptation of steers to the triticale based ration and a lower overall dry matter intake of these steers. However, says Mr. Zob., this study demonstrates that triticale can be fed to steers on a finishing ration without significantly decreasing feed efficiency. "This and other trials indicate that triticale should be considered by livestock producers as a feed source, and by grain producers as an alternate crop," he says.

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Contact:

Dale ZoBell
340-5334

February 17, 1986

For immediate release

Minimum till method shows interesting results

For the past three years, Keith Brower of Poplar Glen Farms has used zero-till, or as he calls it, minimum till. Last year, however, results from an Alberta Agriculture on-farm demonstration using zero-till proved especially interesting considering how dry it was.

Jerome Manchur, district agriculturist at Wainwright, says that based on these results zero-till represents a tillage method farmers in east-central Alberta may want to consider.

Two fields, both left uncultivated in the fall of 1984, were compared. Field number 1 was cultivated twice with sweeps on a deep tillage cultivator. Field number 2 was sprayed with one litre of Roundup on May 20. Both fields were seeded with a zero-till Haybuster 8000 drill followed by a 500 gallon tank containing liquid fertilizer. This fertilizer was metered to each drill run.

On June 4, both fields were seeded to Leduc barley at 1.75 bushels per acre. Each field had fertilizer banded at two inches below the seed with 55 pounds per acre of nitrogen and 10 pounds per acre of phosphorus.

The fields were both straight combined. Field number 1, the conventional-till field, averaged 71.9 bushels per acre, while field number 2, the zero-till field, averaged 78.1 bushels per acre, or 6.2 bushels per acre more than the conventional-till field.

(Cont'd)

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Minimum till method shows interesting results (cont'd)

However, once the costs for both fields were calculated the difference decreased. Although the costs for the zero-till field were higher because of chemical costs, the zero-till field still made approximately $15 per acre more than the conventional till field.

For more information on this demonstration contact Jerome Manchur, district agriculturist, Wainwright, phone 842-6126.

Contact:

Jerome Manchur
842-6126

February 17, 1986

For immediate release

Farm machinery engineer appointed

Marshall Eliason has been appointed farm machinery engineer with Alberta Agriculture's engineering and rural services division in Edmonton. The appointment which was effective February 1, 1986 was announced by Bob Forrest, associate director with the division.

Mr. Eliason was raised on a mixed, family-operated farm near Wetaskiwin. He graduated from Olds College with a diploma in agricultural production, then he went on to obtain a B.Sc. in agriculture (engineering) from the University of Alberta in 1978. In 1983 he received his M.Sc. in agriculture (engineering).

Since 1978, Mr. Eliason has worked as a project engineer with the Prairie Agricultural Machinery Institute in Lethbridge. During this time he was involved in the testing, evaluation and development of agricultural machinery and equipment.

In his new position, Mr. Eliason will work on programs and projects relating to farm machinery and equipment used to harvest, condition and store crops.

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Contact:

Marshall Eliason
427-2181

February 17, 1986

For immediate release

Associate trade director appointed

Lou Normand, senior trade director with Alberta Agriculture's market development division, has announced the appointment of Elton Dunk as associate trade director for North America. Mr. Dunk will be responsible for developing markets for Alberta agricultural commodities and food products in Canada and the United States.

Born and raised on a mixed farm near Warner, Alberta, Mr. Dunk holds a B.Sc. in agriculture from the University of Alberta.

Previously, Mr. Dunk has worked with Alberta Agriculture's 4-H branch, Alberta Energy and Natural Resources and Maple Leaf Mills' seed division.

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Contact:

Elton Dunk
427-4241

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AGRI-NEWS

CANADIANA

MAR 20 1986

February 24, 1986

For immediate release

This Week

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February 24, 1986

For immediate release

Project Seed : agricultural education for students in remote locations

A new project designed to improve the delivery of agricultural education to students in remote Alberta locations is now underway. Project Seed is a partnership between the four agricultural colleges in Alberta (Fairview College, Lakeland College, Lethbridge Community College, and Olds College), Alberta Wheat Pool, Alberta Agriculture, and Alberta Advanced Education.

By taking advantage of new high technology transmission methods, the project will improve the level of service to distant agricultural learners in Alberta. Adult students will be able to receive instructional modules close to home at district offices or high schools, rather than travelling to a major town or city.

Several test instructional units are now being delivered which use satellite TV broadcasts, color graphics data transmission, computer assisted/managed learning, and audio-teleconferencing. The test units deliver lessons on such topics as the grain futures market, beef production and chemical safety.

"Although these techniques are already proven for other educational needs, the test units are designed to test their practicality for use in agricultural education," says Warren Wismer, head of Alberta Agriculture's agricultural education branch. He says that by working on these small pilot lessons, agricultural instructors will discover new techniques of teaching a distant learner and gain experience at choosing technologies that are compatible with teaching objectives and content material.

(Cont'd)

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Project seed: agricultural education for students in remote locations (Cont'd)

Upon the project's completion in March, a report of the methods and experiences of the members will be prepared. It's expected that these institutions will develop a collaborative, province-wide distance education program for agriculture.

The Project Seed office is located on the campus of Olds College, Olds, Alberta, TOM 1PO, telephone 556-8209.

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Contact:

Warren Wismer
427-2402

or

Dr. Barry Ellis
Project Seed Manager
Olds College
556-8209

February 24, 1986

For immediate release

Alberta farm water grant program

An adequate water supply is essential to successful farm operations. Many Alberta farmers' and ranchers' water sources are too remote to be readily available for domestic and stock-watering purposes. Now, many of those who depend on agriculture for their livelihood will benefit from a new provincial financial assistance program administered by Alberta Utilities.

The Alberta Farm Water Grant Program, a three-year, $16 million program designed to assist farmers who have water transmission needs, was announced by Bob Bogle, Minister of Utilities, on September 6, 1985. To date, about 400 applications for financial assistance have been received from throughout the province. Individuals, as well as groups ranging in size from two to 120 farm units sharing a common water source and transmission main, have applied for funding.

Program funding is retroactive to April 1, 1985, and will continue until March 31, 1988. Farmers and ranchers who started construction of permanent water transmission systems in the summer of 1985, or who are planning construction in the next two years, may be eligible for financial assistance under the program.

(Cont'd)

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Alberta farm water grant program (cont'd)

The funding limit is based on $20,000 per farm unit served. The province cost-shares with applicants on a 75/25 basis, for a maximum government contribution of $15,000. Funding from other government sources, including the federal Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration (PFRA) program, will be applied toward the provincial contribution, thus maintaining the owner's 25 per cent responsibility. The average grant to date is approximately $5,000, representing an estimated project cost of $6,700 per farm unit.

Program emphasis is on moving the water from the source to its point of use. A typical individual project involves pumping water from a remote source through 300 to 450 metres (1,000 to 1,500 feet) of pipeline. The distance of water transmission from the source to the first domestic point of use, such as a stock tank or barn, must exceed 150 metres (about 500 feet) for the project to be considered for funding. Because of the specific nature of this program, projects that involve extending existing water systems or distributing water beyond the first domestic or livestock points of use are not eligible for funding. Eligible items include pumps and controls, pumphouse and pressure tanks, pipes and trenching, and secondary power for a pump.

Larger projects can also be built when the maximum funding level is accumulated by groups. For example, four farmers might combine their funding eligibility of $20,000 each to finance a project with a total cost of $80,000.

(Cont'd)

Alberta farm water grant program (cont'd)

One such project is being undertaken by six farmers in the Granum, Alberta, area who have formed a cooperative society to own, operate, and maintain a system. The farmers have drilled a well for common supply and are pumping water from this well to cisterns on each of their farms. The project involves seven kilometres (4 ½ miles) of polyethylene pipeline, ranging in size from 38 to 75 mm (1 ½ to 3-inch) pipe, with a three-horsepower (hp) electric submersible pump. The system will supply up to five gallons of water per minute to each farm site. Estimated cost of the pipeline is $88,000. The farmers will contribute $22,000 as their share, while the Alberta government and PFRA will provide $66,000. Planning for this project started in October 1985, and construction should be completed sometime in April 1986.

Individuals and groups who may qualify for financial assistance are encouraged to submit applications to Alberta Utilities, Municipal Utilities Division, 2nd Floor, Westcor Building, 12323 Stony Plain Road, Edmonton, Alberta, T5N 3Y9; telephone 403/422-4591.

Further information on the Alberta Farm Water Grant Program, and application forms, are also available from Alberta Agriculture district offices.

Contact:

Grant Bridgeman
(403)422-4591

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Phone: (403) 427-2121

February 24, 1986

For immediate release

Another severe winter for alfalfa in western Canada?

The alfalfa dehydration industry may experience another severe blow in 1986, according to Dr. Jim McKenzie, a winterhardiness specialist from Agriculture Canada's Research Station at Beaverlodge, Alberta. The very mild weather prior to and during Christmas caused alfalfa plants to deharden and become more susceptible to the cold temperatures normally found in northern Alberta, British Columbia and Saskatchewan in mid-winter.

Although the actual extent of the damage is not yet known, Dr. McKenzie says that some of the plants dug from the field in late December at Beaverlodge failed to grow in the greenhouse and those which did grow had reduced vigor. This same response occurred during the severe winter in 1984-85 when the Alberta dehydration industry lost $4.5 million. Dr. McKenzie says that there are a lot of things that producers should be considering right now. First of all, they need to know what the situation is on their farm. Second, if they have a problem, they must consider their alternatives now to help save dollars in the spring.

"Producers who are concerned should sample their fields right now," says Dr. McKenzie. He recommends that five or six plants be dug with an axe or pick at three to five locations throughout the field. Only three to six inches of root and crown are needed. Once dug, the plants should be placed immediately in a plastic bag filled with snow to protect them from further stress. They should thaw slowly overnight inside a building and be potted into soil the next day. Soil mixtures can be purchased at any nursery or flower shop.

(Cont'd)

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Another severe winter for alfalfa in western Canada? (cont'd)

A plant from each location in the field should be transplanted into a separate pot. The pots can be kept on a window ledge. If there is no damage, the plants should have three to five inches of vigorous growth within two to three weeks. By sampling a field which was seeded in 1985, producers will be able to compare the amount of growth from plants not affected by the stress with the growth from plants sampled in their field. If most of the plants have vigorous growth, the fields will be safe. If many plants fail to survive, the producer may have a major problem.

If a field is injured, the producer may decide to plow it up in the early spring and seed it to an alternative. This may reduce potential losses in 1986 and maintain some income from the affected field. Dr. McKenzie stresses that first year alfalfa fields are rarely affected by winterkill. For this reason, fields seeded in 1985 will probably not be affected by the stress. The winterkill will be concentrated in those areas experiencing cold weather when there was little or no snow cover this winter. Older stands will be more affected than young stands. Tender varieties like Anchor and Angus will receive more damage than hardy adapted varieties like Peace, Rambler and Beaver.

If plants are damaged this winter, there is nothing that can be done now to save them. Dr. McKenzie suggests that the best way for producers to minimize the effects of winterkill in the future is to seed a percentage of their alfalfa acreage each year on a continuous basis, and to use certified seed of adapted recommended varieties.

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Contact:

J.S. McKenzie or G.E. McLean
Agriculture Canada
Research Station
Box 29
Beaverlodge, Alberta
TOH OCO
354-2212

February 24, 1986

For immediate release

Crop Protection '86 seminar

Helping Alberta farmers learn how to cope with pest problems more efficiently is the purpose of Alberta Agriculture's new home study course, Crop Protection '86. Now, to complement the course, Alberta Agriculture has scheduled the first of four seminars being held across Alberta that will feature internationally recognized speakers in weed, insect, and disease control as well as intensive cereals management.

The seminar, to be held on March 11 at the Lethbridge El Rancho, will feature as its keynote speaker, Dr. E. Faust with Hoechst in Frankfurt, West Germany. He has a global perspective of development in crop protection and will discuss crop protection in the future.

In the morning segment of the seminar, three speakers from the Agriculture Canada Research Station in Lethbridge will deal with insect management. Dr. D. Johnson will discuss grasshoppers -- past, present and future; Dr. B. Byers will talk about the integrated control of cutworms; and Dr. Wm. Charnetski will tell participants what they need to know to use insecticides.

In the afternoon, presentations will be made on the implications of minimum tillage to crop protection. Dr. Wm Hamman, Monsanto, will discuss weeds; Dr. A. Takehouse, Agriculture Canada, Winnipeg, will deal with disease; and Dr. Wm. Turnock, Agriculture Canada, Winnipeg, will cover insects, and how minimum tillage may influence the biology, spread and control of pest species in the future. Although minimum tillage is becoming an accepted practice, pest control problems could develop as a result of the change in agronomic practices.

(Cont'd)

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Crop protection '86 seminar (Cont'd)

Later in the afternoon, Dr. M. Dorrance with Alberta Agriculture will talk about vertebrate pests and finally, Dr. E. Faust will conclude the seminar.

This seminar is open to the public; the cost is $5 per person.

For more information on this Crop Protection '86 seminar contact: the Crop Protection Branch, Alberta Agriculture, 2nd Floor, 7000 - 113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6, telephone 427-7098.

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Contact:

Michael Dolinski
427-7098

February 24, 1986

For immediate release

Australian farmers face similar problems to Canadian farmers

The following excerpts are taken from a paper prepared by Trevor Day for the conference, Managing Agricultural Technology For Profit, at the Chateau Lake Louise, March 17 - 20, 1986.

Australia is sometimes described as the largest island in the world. With an area of nearly three million square miles and a population of around 15 million -- a small domestic market -- Australia relies heavily on exports to help consume its excessive amounts of agricultural produce.

In 1985 the agricultural industry earned 45 per cent of Australia's export income. Wheat and wool as separate commodities continue to hold a place among the top five export earners. The gross value of wheat production for 1984/85 was Australian (or Canadian) $2,950 million, of which approximately 94 per cent was exported. The Australian sheep flock now stands at nearly 150 million and the production of wool in 1984/85 was approximately 753 million kilos, worth some A$2,000 million of which 97 per cent was exported.

Alberta producers may find it interesting that the Australian farmer experiences many of the same difficulties they do in making a living. The Australian Bureau of Statistics has recently released figures stating that the average farm income for 1985/86 is forecast to be a meagre a A$5,300 per farmer. Farm organizations are currently lobbying strongly to have taxes on farm inputs reduced. The Australian Bureau of Statistics has put this burden at a staggering A$20,000 per farmer. Inputs such as fuel, chemicals, machinery and fertilizer all carry taxes.

(Cont'd)

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Australian farmers face similar problems to Canadian farmers (Cont'd)

The government's policy to prop up the Australian dollar with high interest rates, now at around 20 per cent, instead of letting it find its own value, is a further burden farmers must carry.

While Australia's present dollar value, at around US$0.69, aids our exports, imports such as machinery and vehicles are becoming extremely expensive.

		Canadian
Chemical-20 litre Hoegrass	A$321.50	$321.50
Fuel-Diesel per litre	A$ .45	$ .45
Gasoline per litre	A$ .50	$ .50

Between 1978 and 1984 farm incomes have dropped 30 per cent in the United States, 35 per cent in Canada and a staggering 50 per cent in Australia. At present the farm debt in Australia stands at about A$6 billion. While this may not be a good indicator of overall rural hardship, the current annual interest bill on this debt is something approaching A$1.2 billion. In addition, in real terms, the estimated net value of our agricultural production dropped 26 per cent last year (1985), while the gross value of agricultural production in 1986 is expected to be over A$15 billion, 78 per cent of this will be eaten up by farm costs. These costs are expected to rise by A$600 million this year.

(Cont'd)

Despite improved management techniques, the use of syndication to reduce capital outlay and increased labor efficiency, the falling commodity prices and rapidly increasing costs are quickly eating into farm profitability.

For further information about the Managing Agricultural Technology For Profit conference or to enquire about Trevor Day's paper, contact George Maicher or James Obniawka at Alberta Agriculture's farm business management branch, Olds, telephone, 556-42 J.

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Contact:

George Maicher
or
James Obniawka
556-4240

February 24, 1986

For immediate release

Weed Fairs '86 in northeastern Alberta

Mundare, Two Hills, Mannville and Viking are the locations of this year's Weed Fairs '86 to be held during the first week in March.

This year, the Weed Fairs, sponsored by Alberta Agriculture, participating companies and local counties, are featuring speakers on Intensive Crop Management (ICM).

ICM is the new catchword in agriculture. It involves the close management of crops to obtain the highest yields. Gary Stangness with Crockett Fertilizers of Innisfail will discuss his work with local producers on ICM. Mr. Stangness will speak at the Mundare and Two Hills weed fairs.

At the Mannville and Viking fairs, Ken Nelson, a seed grower from Westlock, will describe his two years' experience with ICM.

Displays of the latest herbicide and pesticide information will be at each fair and company representatives will be available to answer producers' questions on weed control. A highlight of the weed fairs will be a special display on weeds and diseases of canola prepared by the Alberta Environmental Centre at Vegreville.

Weed Fairs '86 will provide producers with the information they need on weed control and the newest information on crop production.

(Cont'd)

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Weed Fairs '86 in northeastern Alberta (Cont'd)

The dates and locations of the Weed Fairs are: Monday, March 3 - Mundare National Hall; Tuesday, March 4 - Two Hills Centennial Hall; Wednesday, March 5 - Mannville Recreation Centre; and Thursday, March 6 - Viking Community Hall.

Each fair begins at 9:30 am. Lunch is provided. Contact the Alberta Agriculture district offices in Lamont, Two Hills, Ryley or Vegreville for more information.

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Contact:

Jim Unterschultz
632-5400

February 24, 1986

For immediate release

Agro-Electronics Show 1986

The Fourth Annual Agro-Electronics Show scheduled for March 6, 7 and 8 will be presented in a slightly different format than in past years. The 1986 show will be held in conjunction with the Smoky River Agriculture and Trade Show, an agricultural show serving the Peace River area. Both shows will be held at the Falher Arena, in Falher, Alberta.

The Agro-Electronics Show had its beginnings in 1981 in Olds, Alberta. At that time the show was a small computer fair comprised of numerous seminars complemented by computer equipment exhibits. With attendance figures of 300 the first year and 600 the second year, it was renamed the Agro-Electronics Show and was moved to Red Deer.

Last year, the show was held in Vermilion in conjunction with the opening of the new Lakeland College facilities. Attendance has been as high as 3000 people. Additional exhibitors over the last two years have included distributors of electronic monitoring, security and communications equipment. The purpose of the fair has always been to increase farmers' awareness of computer technology and micro-computers and to provide a means of bringing industry and farmers together.

(Cont'd)

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Agro-Electronics Show 1986 (cont'd)

The seminar topics that will be featured at this year's show include: electronic spreadsheets, information management on the farm, information as a farm input, machinery innovations, herbicide recommendation by computer, the future of computers on the farm, and computerized bookkeeping.

For more information on the Agro-Electronics Show contact Dave Scott at 427-2181 or Paul Gervais at 556-4240.

30

Contact:

Dave Scott
427-2181

February 24, 1986

For immediate release

First aid for African violets

The first African violet was discovered in 1892 by the governor of Usambara, a province in northeast Tanganyika, Africa. The plants were found growing in cracks of rock faces by Adalbert Emil Redcliffe Le Tanneur von Saint Paul-Illaire, thus its species name, *Santpaulia*

The plants were commercially developed in North America in 1927 and by 1936, 10 superior hybrids were developed in the United States. In 1946 the African Violet Society of America was founded and because of their efforts the popularity of African violets began to soar. The hybridization of the plant continued so that today, there is a tremendous variety than can be grown by the *Saintpaulia* fancier.

Here, for African violet enthusiasts, are some first aid procedures that can be used to keep their plants healthy.

Scorching and yellowing of leaf edges: This is the result of too much direct sun during the summer. Filter the light with a curtain or move to a less bright location.

Yellowing foliage: This is usually because of too much fertilizer or a lack of humidity. If using clay pots salts build up on the pots, and the plant should be thoroughly drenched twice to wash away as many salts as possible. In cases of severe salt buildup repotting will be necessary Fertilize less often with half the amount indicated on the label. To raise the humidity, keep the plant on a bed of wet pebbles without the bottom of the pot touching any water African violets can be successfully sprayed with warm water occasionally.

(Cont'd)

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First aid for African violets (cont'd)

Irregular, yellow mottling on the leaves: New growth can be malformed with leaf edges turning brown or white, This is a condition called chlorosis and is caused by the soil being too alkaline. Use an acid-rich plant food or feed plant regularly with African violet fertilizer.

Spots, colored markings, yellowing leaves: These are signs of underwatering. Remove any damaged foliage and water over the entire soil surface slowly until excess water drains out of the drainage holes in the bottom of the pot. Don't allow the plant to sit in a saucer of water for more than hour. Allow soil surface to become just dry before another thorough watering.

Brown spots on leaves: This is usually caused by using cold water and thus chilling the plant. Make it a practice with all plants to use warm water for watering and spraying.

Ring spots on leaves: These are caused by water that is too warm or too cold and by sun burning wet foliage. Use room-temperature water and move plant farther away from its present light source or filter it from the bright sun. Apply water carefully to keep it off the leaves.

Browned centres of the plant: This is caused by overfertilizing. Fertilize less often, using half the amount recommended on the label. Water the plant thoroughly twice to remove the salt buildup in the soil and, if using clay pots, scrub any salt residue off the pots with warm water and a stiff brush. Giving the plant a little more light will usually help. Allowing water to settle in the crown of the plant will also turn it brown. Water directly on the soil, avoiding the leaves by using a water can with a long, thin stem.

(Cont'd)

First aid for African violets (cont'd)

A wilting plant and rotting main stem: This is a fungus disease called crown and stem rot or root rot. It is aggravated by overwatering, excessive humidity or extremes in temperature. This is a difficult condition to treat, but you can try to repot. Before repotting, cut off all damaged foliage and wash the root system in warm water. Repot in pasteurized soil and give proper environmental conditions. Apply benomyl or captan.

Jelly-like leaves which droop over the rims of the pot: This is the result of too much fertilizing. Flush out salts by drenching the soil twice with water and allowing it to drain well. If white salts have accumulated on the pot rims, wash them off with warm water and a stiff brush. Coat the rims of clay pots with paraffin. Repot in fresh soil and use a plastic pot if the problem persists. Fertilize less often with half the recommended amount on the label.

Flower buds that dry up: This is the result of lack of humidity or a sudden shift in the plant's location. Place on a bed of moist pebbles without the bottom of the pot touching water. If the humidity is correct, the plant will adjust to a new location.

Flower buds that get dark, do not flower and fall prematurely, accompanied by yellowing of foliage: This may be the result of air pollution. Improve air circulation in the growing area and avoid allowing excessive moisture to remain on the leaves, until the plant recovers. Check the operation of gas furnaces and any other open burners in the room.

Leaves grouped together in small bunches rather than laying in a flat rosette: This is the result of overexposure to artificial lights or a location which is too cool. Move plant to a warmer location. To develop symmetrical leaf formation, turn plants one quarter turn each day.

(Cont'd)

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First aid for African violets (cont'd)

Grey or white felt-like coating on foliage: This is either powdery mildew or grey mold disease which causes the leaves to curl and shrivel up. Both diseases are favored by too high a humidity. Good ventilation will be necessary to control these problems. Rinse powdery mildew off the leaves with warm , soapy water to prevent the spread of spores and dust or spray affected plants with one of the following; benomyl, dinocap + captan or dinocap + zineb. For grey mold, use benomyl and lower humidity. If badly diseased, affected leaves should be removed.

Spindly growth, poor flowering: Lack of light. Move plants to a window area or provide artificial light (approximately 500 footcandles).

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Contact:

Betty Vladicka
Alberta Tree Nursery & Horticulture Centre
973-3351

February 24, 1985

For immediate release

New home study coordinator appointed

Pat Davidson has been appointed the home study coordinator for Alberta Agriculture. Warren Wismer, head of the agricultural education branch, said Ms. Davidson's appointment became effective the beginning of February, 1986.

The home study program develops and delivers a variety of courses for self study. The courses offer up-to-date technical information needed by Alberta farmers to maintain viable farming units. Currently, 13 different courses are available and others are being developed.

Prior to her appointment as home study coordinator, Ms. Davidson worked as a publications editor for Alberta Agriculture's print media branch. Raised on a mixed farm east of Edmonton, she has a bachelor's degree in journalism and a master's degree in agriculture.

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Contact:

Pat Davidson
427-2404

AGRI-NEWS

CANADIANA
MAR 20 1986

March 3, 1986

For immediate release

This Week

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Phone: (403) 427-2121

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March 3, 1986

For immediate release

Rail and truck freight rate increases

Alberta shippers are feeling the impact of the increased costs of transporting agricultural goods by rail or truck.

Rail freight rates for most agricultural commodities were increased by six per cent on January 1, 1986. The most prominent agricultural commodities affected by these increases are grain and grain products (domestic), seeds, meat and meat products, fruits and vegetables, lumber and forest products, and agricultural implements.

Nabi Chaudhary, an agricultural transportation economist with Alberta Agriculture, says that the rail increases are an attempt by railways to make up for restricted rate increases under the federal price guidelines set for 1983 and 1984. The current rate increases, which are expected to remain in place for at least one year, are significantly higher than the 1985 and 1986 projected inflation rates, he says.

Carload rail rates on meat (suspended, packaged) and meat products have been cancelled because of lack of movement and have been replaced with piggyback rates. Piggyback rates for meat shipments were increased by six per cent on January 1, 1986. Rates on livestock shipments to eastern Canada will increase by three per cent on April 1, 1986.

CN Rail and CP Rail rates on selected commodities on traffic between Canada and the United States were increased between three to seven per cent, with most set at six per cent, on November 15, 1985.

(Cont'd)

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Rail and truck freight rate increases (cont'd)

United States rail rate increases, approved by the Interstate Commerce Commission (ICC), amounted to 1.1 per cent effective January 1, 1986 because the index of rail costs had risen above its previous high. The Association of American Railroads, an industry group, had requested a 1.5 per cent increase.

Commercial truck freight rates on intra-provincial movements of fertilizer and fertilizer materials were increased by six per cent on January 1, 1986. Truck rates on selected agricultural commodities for extra-provincial movements will increase by six per cent on March 1, 1986.

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Contact:

Nabi Chaudhary
427-5395

March 3, 1986

For immediate release

Vitamin ADE for the beef cow herd

Occasionally, cattle on predominantly hay diets can have their vitamin supplementation neglected with few adverse affects. However, when fed straw, greenfeed or grain diets, vitamins must be mixed with the feed or injected on a routine basis. The following points may be useful in ensuring adequate vitamin supplementation this winter.

1. Green leafy forages contain carotene which the animal is able to convert into vitamin A. The carotene content of forages will vary with storage conditions and time. Grains do not contain carotene.

2. Vitamins are stored within the body and slowly released as required. The daily requirements for Vitamin A are:

Calf or feeder	30,000 I.U.
Mature cow	40,000 I.U.
Mature cow - late pregnancy	60,000 I.U.
Milking beef cow	60,000 I.U.

3. The potency of commercial vitamin mixes varies. Injectable vitamin ADE has a common potency of 500,000 to 1,000,000 IU/mL (vitamin A), whereas powdered Vitamin ADE has a potency of 8 to 10 million IU/kg. Many veterinarians sell a triple strength product which contains 30 million IU/kg plus selenium. It is important to know the potency of the product. Four grams of a 10 million potency product supplies sufficient Vitamin A for a pregnant beef cow as does 1.34 grams of a 30 million potency product.

(Cont'd)

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Vitamin ADE for the beef cow herd (cont'd)

4. A 5 mL (500,000) injection of vitamin ADE to a pregnant cow (mid-pregnancy) will last approximately 60 days. Therefore, a second and third injection will be required over the winter. It should be noted that the vitamin E in an injectable product is present to stabilize the vitamins A and D not to supplement the cow with vitamin E.

5. Rather than feeding vitamins daily, it could be fed every two to four weeks. The vitamins could be mixed with a small amount of crushed grain or mixed with a one to three day supply of salt and mineral. Vitamins could be sprinkled on top of the daily silage allowance. For example, 100 cows would require (100 x 40,000 x 14 days) or 56 million IU or 5.6 kg (12.3 lb) of a 10 million potency product once every two weeks.

6. The liquid and dry commercial protein supplements (such as 32%) contain vitamins. The vitamin ADE requirements will usually be met when feeding 0.9 lb per head per day of these products. Commercial mineral supplements also contain vitamins, but do not rely on vitamins in prepared mineral mixes to supply the total animal requirement.

7. Supplemental vitamins can be fed by addition to the salt, but salt intake must be known. The vitamins must be mixed with a maximum three day supply of salt. Even though vitamins are stabilized, the presence of heavy metals and wet conditions will degrade their potency.

Contact:

Peter Funk
340-5364

March 3, 1986

For immediate release

Intensive cereal management seminar offered

An Intensive Cereal Management (ICM) seminar, sponsored by Alberta Agriculture, will be held March 13 at the Westerner (Agriculture Fair Grounds) in Red Deer.

The seminar, as part of the Crop Protection '86 home study course, will provide indepth information on ICM and its place in cereal production in Alberta.

ICM is a farming system of putting together all inputs in the proper combination to achieve maximum yield. Inputs include accurate fertilization, proper soil management, responsive seed varieties, higher plant population, narrow row spacing and precise application of pesticides.

Intensive cereal management means up to double the return per acre for the additional management input it requires. The method also pays great attention to both soil and crop quality.

The one-day seminar will feature several well-known crop production specialists who will discuss the economic and agronomic benefits of the ICM method. Dr. Elmer Stobbe, with the University of Manitoba, will discuss the principles and concept of ICM; Jim Willick, with Ciba-Geigy, will deal with ICM developments in eastern Canada; Bill Chapman, Alberta Agriculture, will discuss ICM developments in Alberta. In the afternoon, Dr. Keith Briggs from the University of Alberta will talk about wheat varieties for ICM; and Dr. Jim Helm, Alberta Agriculture, will discuss barley varieties. Finally, Doug Penney with Alberta Agriculture will deal with soil management under ICM.

(Cont'd)

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Intensive cereal management seminar (cont'd)

The cost of the seminar is $5 per person which includes refreshments and seminar materials.

For further information contact: The Crop Protection Branch, Alberta Agriculture, 2nd Floor, 7000-113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6, telephone, 427-5324. Registration forms are available at all Alberta Agriculture district offices.

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Contact:

Shafeek Ali
427-5324

March 3, 1986

For immediate release

Alternate land leasing options

Successive years of drought and low grain prices have encouraged farmland renters to consider alternate ways to ensure that their efforts are rewarded more positively. The major benefit of leasing land is the creation of a positive cashflow to strengthen the overall farm operation.

Unfortunately, with crop returns that barely cover cash costs and rent payments, tenants are reluctant to see an increase in rent levels in 1986, and in fact, are more likely to be negotiating for rent reductions. Landowners, on the other hand, having seen the value of their land drop over the past few years, are reluctant to reduce their annual rent.

How can I persuade the landlord to lower the rent?

Landowners who have decided to hold their land rather than sell out and invest elsewhere should consider the ongoing condition of their land, the quality of the tenant and the rent received when calculating their desired return. Similarily, most tenants are willing to accept a moderate level of income variability on rented land. It goes with the territory.

Flexibility in the terms of a lease, whether it be on a cash or crop share basis, should be included to avoid the tenant from running down the land just to make ends meet under a three year lease. A tenant who is making money on a lease is more likely to maintain the productivity of the land.

(Cont'd)

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Alternate land leasing options (cont'd)

What is fair?

The tenant's income should cover cash costs (fuel, fertilizer, herbicide) as a minimum, but may not include depreciation or labor. There is no reason for a tenant to expect to use another's land, receiving sufficient income to cover all cash and overhead costs, before the owner receives his payment. Similarily, the owner should not expect to receive a full payment and maintenance of land when the tenant cannot cover his cash expenses. In return for a more flexible lease the landlord should have some say in the cropping program. A rotation, whether based on 50:50 or continuous cropping, will have different income, expense and risk levels, directly influencing the returns to not only the tenant but the owner.

The starting point for negotiating the lease is for the landlord to realize that the tenant has a basic level of earnings. The landlord must make the deal worthwhile for the tenant and encourage him to farm in a good manner. The tenant must realize that there are several other people interested in the land who may have greater optimism in the future and are willing to bid more than he is. The landlord is likely to accept the highest offer that reduces his involvement in the farm operations. This is an opportunity for a tenant to discuss with the owner the proposed cropping plan and the way the land will be worked. The rent payment then is comprised of monetary reward and good management practices. The owner can weigh the offers on more than purely a financial basis.

(Cont'd)

Alternate land leasing options (cont'd)

What options besides leasing are available?

Custom farming agreements allow an alternate means for an owner and tenant to work out a way for both to benefit. This involves the owner deciding upon a crop program and hiring an operator to perform the work for a fee. Payment is made upon completion of each operation. The landowner handles the price and production risk while the tenant earns a return for himself. This option for the owner also may enhance rollover of the property under the Income Tax Act or the use of the $ 500,000 capital gains exemption. Five year block averaging is also available for the owner.

Joint ventures provide alternatives to renting. This involves farming the land as a shared project with the after-expenses income being split according to the work and investment of both the owner and tenant.

Where can I get more information?

For information on leasing land and alternate lease agreements, Alberta Agriculture has prepared a publication entitled *Leasing Cropland in Alberta*, Agdex 812-5. It covers all types of leasing arrangements, considering the effects on both tenant and landowner.

This publication is available from Alberta Agriculture district offices and the farm business management branch, Box 2000, Olds, Alberta, TOM IPO, telephone 556-4247.

Contact:

Garth Nickorick
556-4247

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Print Media Branch
Phone: (403) 427-2121

March 3, 1986

For immediate release

Farming for the Future Research Conference - March 11-12

Although the deadline to pre-register in the Farming for the Future Research Conference has passed, walk-in registrants are welcome. The walk-in registration fee is $5 and includes the sessions only.

The conference, scheduled for March 11-12, will provide a forum for discussion of research findings and research policy vital to Alberta's agriculture industry.

For the past seven years Farming for the Future, Alberta's wide-ranging agricultural research funding program, has been instrumental in generating new knowledge and technology for the benefit of agricultural producers in the province.

During this period, the program, which is financed by the Alberta Heritage Savings Trust Fund, has awarded more than $32.3 million to over 580 research and demonstration projects. These studies were specifically designed to address problems affecting agricultural production in Alberta.

Scientists and farmers who have participated in Farming for the Future's Research and On-Farm Demonstration Programs will be making presentations at the conference. Following each presentation, questions will be invited from the audience. Several displays on topics of current interest will also be featured. The conference will conclude with an open forum involving speakers, producers, program administrators and representatives of the government and research community.

(Cont'd)

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Farming for the Future Research Conference - March 11-12 (cont'd)

The themes for this year's conference are biotechnology, soil and water management, and technology transfer. The displays will feature microcomputers on the farm, steps for limiting exposure to pesticides and reducing salinity in irrigated areas.

The conference will be held in the Wildrose Ballroom at the Edmonton Inn. For additional information or registration forms please contact Evelyn Shapka at 427-1956.

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Contact:

Evelyn Shapka
427-1956

March 3, 1986

For immediate release

Overview of market prospects for grains, oilseeds and livestock scheduled

With spring as the major decision making season for farmers, Alberta Agriculture has chosen the month of March to hold its Accent '86 - Taking Stock conference. The farm outlook conference scheduled for March 11 and 12 at the Calgary Convention Centre will focus on market prospects for grains, oilseeds and livestock.

To allow producers who have not already registered in the conference to take advantage of it, the registration deadline has been extended.

The two-day conference will feature a combination of some new speakers and some popular speakers from previous conferences. Many will remember Gail Martell, of E.F. Hutton and Company Inc., who will discuss world weather and what's on the horizon; and Robert Price, leader of the Western Livestock Information Project in Denver, Colorado, who will talk about the United States cattle situation and outlook.

A speaker of particular interest is Peter Perkins, with the Australian Bureau of Agricultural Economics, who is currently on a USDA exchange program in Washington. Many producers will remember Mr. Perkins from his work with Alberta Agriculture in the early '70s and his Herald Grain newsletter. Mr. Perkins will discuss changing world farm policy.

The cost of the conference depends on how participants register. For $60, registrants can attend all conference sessions, the banquet and luncheon, and receive the proceedings

(Cont'd)

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Overview of market prospects for grains, oilseeds and livestock scheduled (cont'd)

To attend the conference only and receive the proceedings, the cost is $15. To receive the proceedings only, the cost is $15.

For further information on Accent '86 - Taking Stock, please contact the market analysis branch, Alberta Agriculture, 3rd Floor, 7000 - 113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6, telephone (403) 427-5387.

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Contact:

Al Dooley
427-4002

March 3, 1986

For immediate release

Fertilizer economics

Farmers considering using fertilizer in the 1986 crop year can improve their decision making skills by studying a 1985 factsheet, *Fertilizer Economics*, Agdex 822-11.

The publication uses a common sense approach to help interested producers decide how much nitrogen fertilizer to apply. Factors considered are expected crop response to nitrogen fertilizer application, expected crop prices, fertilizer cost, availability of operating capital and an assessment of risk. *Fertilizer Economics* demonstrates a method of considering all these factors to determine the most likely amount of fertilizer to apply to maximize profit.

Marginal analysis and equal marginal return analysis are demonstrated with a common sense method based on comparing added returns with the added costs of each application. The comparison enables producers to assess potential gains relative to potential losses and helps them to select a rate of application associated with their ability and attitude to taking chances on the outcome.

Producers can use the procedure described in the article to improve the probability of increasing the profitability of their production. Understanding the concepts will assist in developing production plans that make economic sense.

(Cont'd)

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Fertilizer Economics (cont'd)

The publication is available from Alberta Agriculture district offices; the Publications Office, 7000 - 113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6; or from the farm business management branch, Box 2000, Olds, Alberta, T0M 1P0, 556-4240.

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Contact:

Craig Edwards
556-4248

March 3, 1986

For immediate release

Agricultural events to be held in Lacombe

Lacombe, Alberta will be the location for two agricultural events scheduled in March.

On March 6, from 9:30 to 3:30, a Field Crops '86 seminar will be held. Speakers from Alberta Agriculture and the Lacombe Research Station will discuss selecting the best variety for your farm, making the most of your dollars in crop production, recent advances in soils and fertilizers, and new registrations and use of weed control chemicals. The registration fee of $5 includes lunch. The seminar will be held at the Kozy Korner in Lacombe.

On March 19, from 8:30 to 2:30, a grain marketing seminar will be presented via satellite television at the Lacombe Agriculture Building. The program is entitled, "Promoting the Competitive Edge" and will cover such topics as world price determination, the market outlook for cereals and oilseeds, the implications of the United States farm bill, and free trade. A resource person will be on hand to answer questions. The registration fee which includes lunch is $10. Registration is limited to 25 people.

Pre-registration is encouraged for both of these events. To do so call the Lacombe district office at 782-3301 (Red Deer direct line 342-2813).

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Contact:

Neil Miller or Stuart Tucker
782-3301

March 3, 1986

For immediate release

Deadline extended for drought assistance programs

LeRoy Fjordbotten, Alberta's minister of agriculture, has announced an extension of the deadline for submitting applications for the Canada-Alberta Livestock Drought Assistance Program and the Alberta Livestock Assistance Program.

The application deadline for both programs is now March 27, 1986. The deadline for the Canada-Alberta program was December 31, 1985; for the Alberta program, February 28, 1986.

If you are a livestock producer who failed to apply for the Livestock Drought Assistance Program within the previous deadline, you now have another opportunity. Program details and application forms are available at Alberta Agriculture district offices.

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Contact:

Judd Bunnage
427-5079

AGRI-NEWS

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CANADIANA

MAR 27 1986

March 10, 1986

For immediate release

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March 10, 1986

For immediate release

Impact of 1986 federal budget on farmers

On February 26, 1986, Finance Minister Michael Wilson showed Canadians how he was going to decrease the Canadian deficit. The results were rather anti-climactic for Alberta farmers, according to Alex Ostapiuk and Merle Good with Alberta Agriculture's farm business management branch in Olds. The following is a synopsis of the budget proposals, however, there can be variations in these proposals when legislation is developed.

EFFECT ON FARMING BUSINESSES

Individual Surtax

Beginning July 1, 1986, a three per cent surtax will be imposed on the basic federal tax payable. For 1986, this three per cent annual rate will be in addition to the temporary surtax of five per cent brought in by the May, 1985 federal budget.

Therefore for 1986, the combined rate of surtax will be 1.5 per cent on the first $6,000 of basic federal tax payable, 6.5 per cent on federal tax payable between $6,000 and $15,000 and 11.5 per cent on basic federal tax payable in excess of $ 15,000.

For taxation years after 1986, the surtax will be three per cent of federal tax payable for all individuals.

(Cont'd)

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Print Media Branch

Impact of 1986 federal budget on farmers (Cont'd)

Investment Tax Credit (ITC)

Until the end of 1986, the existing ITC rates will remain in place for farming equipment, machinery, etc. Starting January 1, 1987, investment tax credit will be phased out over a three year period and will become NIL in 1989 as shown by the following chart.

	1987	1988	1989
	%	%	%
current 7 per cent rate	5	3	0
current 10 per cent rate	7	3	0

Refundable Investment Tax Credit

Refundable investment tax credit is the 40 per cent of the UNUSED investment tax credits earned from eligible expenditures in the taxation year.

This refundable investment tax credit was set to expire for eligible assets purchased before the end of April 1986. The proposed budget has moved this deadline to December 31, 1988.

Fuel Tax Rebate

The three cent per litre fuel tax rebate for gasoline and diesel fuel used off-highway and in the business of farming has been extended for one year and will expire January 1, 1988. New guidelines to simplify the calculation of the rebate will be introduced.

(Cont'd)

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Impact of 1986 federal budget on farmers (Cont'd)

Federal Sales Tax Rate Increase

Effective April 1, 1986, there will be a one per cent increase in the rate of federal manufacturer's sales tax on construction material and equipment for buildings along with a similar increase for certain other personal use items.

Three Per Cent Inventory Allowance for Accrual Basis Farmers

For the few farmers that file their tax returns on the accrual basis, the three per cent allowance on opening inventory is eliminated, effective February 25, 1986. For year ends that include the February 25, 1986, a prorating of the existing allowance will be allowed based on the number of days in the period that fall on or before that date.

EFFECT ON CORPORATIONS

Tax on Dividends Distributed out of a Corporation

Effective January 1, 1987, dividends paid out of a corporation from that date on will NOT be subject to the 12.5 per cent dividend distribution tax.

(Cont'd)

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Impact of 1986 federal budget on farmers (Cont'd)

Change in Federal Corporate Taxation Rates for Select Businesses

The corporate tax rates on taxable income will be reduced to the following corporate businesses qualifying for the small business deduction effective July 1 of the following years:

	Current Rates %	July 1, 1987 %	July 1, 1988 %	July 1, 1989 %
Small manufacturing and processing business	10	8	8	8
Other small business including most farm companies	15	14	13	13

Corporate Surtax

Along with the decrease in the basic corporate tax rates, Mr. Wilson also announced a corporate surtax of three per cent, also effective January 1, 1987. This surtax is applicable to federal tax payable before certain deductions.

(Cont'd)

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Impact of 1986 federal budget on farmers (Cont'd)

EFFECT ON INDIVIDUALS

Prepayment of the Child Tax Credit

A prepayment of the 1986 child tax credit amounting to $300 per child will automatically be made in November 1986 to eligible claimants who had a family income of $15,000 or less in 1985. This prepayment is about two-thirds of the maximum child tax credit of $454 per child for 1986. Payment of any remaining credit will be made following the filing of the 1986 tax return within which a child tax credit application form must be completed. If there was an overpayment in the November prepayment, this excess will be recovered at the time of filing of that year's tax return.

Refundable Sales Tax Credit

A refundable sales tax credit is available in full where the combined income of a taxpayer and spouse is less than $15,000 and in part where the combined income is between $15,000 to $18,000. The credit consists of $50 per adult and $25 per child.

Disability Deduction

For 1986 and future years the disability deduction will be increased by $250 from $2,610 to $2,860.

Married Exemption

Effective for the 1986 taxation year, the married exemption will now be based for the whole year rather than from the date of marriage - similar to exemptions for other dependants. Previously, the married exemption could be reduced by the amount of the spouse's income earned after the date of marriage.

(Cont'd)

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Impact of 1986 federal budget on farmers (Cont'd)

Amount of Dividends to be Taken into Income by a Shareholder

Up until the end of 1986, dividends will continue to be grossed-up by 50 per cent and taken into income at 150 per cent of the dividend amount. Effective January 1, 1987, this gross-up will change from 50 per cent to 33 1/3 per cent. Therefore, at this time, 133 1/3 per cent of dividend amounts will be required to be taken into income.

Also, effective January 1, 1987, at the same time as the change in taxation of dividends, a change to the credit that can be applied to the dividends taken into income will occur. Up until the end of 1986, 22 2/3 per cent of the grossed-up amount could be taken into income and will be available as a credit against that grossed-up amount. Effective January 1, 1987 this credit will change from 22 2/3 per cent to a credit of 16 2/3 per cent.

This commentary is a brief synopsis of major changes of the budget announcement of February 26, 1986. It is essential that your accountant be consulted to determine what amendments affect your operation, keeping in mind that the budget is not law until legislated by parliament.

For further information contact: Alex Ostapiuk and/or Merle Good, farm business management branch, telephone 556-4235 or 556-4237.

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Contact:

Alex Ostapuik or Merle Good
556-4235 556-4237

March 10, 1986

For immediate release

Forage seed situation and outlook

Prices for the major forage seeds have risen to generally attractive levels. A small forage seed crop, average and lower dealer inventories, and higher anticipated sales have resulted in the higher values when compared to seed prices of a year ago, says Fred Boyce, special commodities analyst with Alberta Agriculture.

Government policies, namely the U.S. farm bill are also expected to result in greater demand for forage seeds. Mr. Boyce says that provisions in the 1985 U.S. farm bill call for increased conservation practices and acreage reductions for the major crops which will likely result in greater demands for forage seeds.

With legume crops, much smaller production has resulted in significantly higher prices. Seed supplies of the forage legume crops are expected to be virtually exhausted by the end of the current crop year and this will maintain prices at current levels. Prices in the 1986-87 crop year should also be quite good.

(Cont'd)

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Forage seed situation and outlook (cont'd)

Grass seed supplies are also expected to be drawn down sharply this season because dryland grass crops suffered from drought and seed production was below normal. Export shipments of grass seed have been relatively good and domestic usage has been stable which should result in a reduction of carryover supplies. Dealer inventories and farm supplies of timothy and fescue were relatively high, and prices were generally low until the shortfall in production became evident. It's expected that future developments in the United States will dictate the direction and magnitude of price changes in Canada during the next few months.

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Contact:

Fred Boyce
427-5383

March 10, 1986

For immediate release

Swine Improvement Program now includes sow productivity service

The Alberta Swine Record of Performance Program (ROP) has announced its new name and expanded function. The Swine ROP Program will now be know as the Swine Improvement Program and will include a sow productivity program as well as the traditional backfat and growth rate measurement service for swine breeding stock.

The Alberta Swine Improvement Program is part of a joint federal/provincial program which operates across the country.

Art Lange, supervisor of swine improvement with Alberta Agriculture, says that the new name was adopted to help promote understanding of the new program especially among foreigners.

The new sow productivity portion of the program is available to all commercial operators as well as seedstock producers at no cost. This program measures the lifetime productivity of sows in terms of number of litters per year, number of services per farrowing, number of pigs born live per litter, farrowing interval, per cent mortality to weaning, number of pigs weaned per litter, number of pigs weaned per year and an optional sow productivity index if litters are weighed. This information is calculated based on cards filled out by the producer as litters are weaned. Data is processed in Edmonton and turnaround time is about three days plus mailing. A monthly listing of all sows in the herd with the above information and another report calculating herd averages for the same parameters are also supplied.

(Cont'd)

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Swine Improvement Program now includes sow productivity service (cont'd)

To obtain more information or to enrol in the sow productivity program contact Alberta Agriculture's pork industry branch in Edmonton at 427-5319 or the swine technicians at the following regional offices:

Lethbridge	381-5108	Red Deer	340-5334
Vermilion	853-2811	Barrhead	674-8248
Fairview	835-2291		

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Contact:

Art Lange
427-5319

March 10, 1986

For immediate release

Annual warble inspection underway

During March, April and May all cattle sold at auction markets and terminal stockyards in Alberta will be checked for warbles.

Agricultural fieldmen will then follow up by visiting farms that are found to be sources of warble-infested cattle, to advise producers on warble control.

This annual inspection is a simple and cost-effective way of helping to control warbles, says Ali Khan, the livestock pest specialist with Alberta Agriculture.

Although the number of warble-infested slaughter cattle in Alberta has dropped from 14 per cent in 1980 to 1.4 per cent in 1985, the pest still has the potential to re-infest Alberta cattle and cause heavy losses again if cattle are not treated every fall.

Dr. Khan points out that The Agricultural Pest Act requires all producers to treat their cattle annually for warbles. All counties, municipal districts, improvement districts and special areas in Alberta are official warble control areas.

At packing plants, cattle carcasses are also monitored for warbles every spring. Information about the sources of warble infestations is used by agricultural service boards in their extension education programs.

"Spring is the only time that producers can confirm the presence of warble infestation in their cattle," says Dr. Khan.

(Cont'd)

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Annual warble inspection underway (cont'd)

At this time, the grubs, in the final stage of migration, arrive at the back of the animal and cut a breathing hole through the skin and continue to develop. During this developmental process, the grub irritates the surrounding tissue which becomes inflamed and appears as a small "bump" with a breathing hole in the back of the animal. It is this stage which is generally referred to as a warble or warble cyst.

The only approved method of examination is hand palpation. This is done by passing one or both hands (depending on the animal holding and restraining facilities) over the entire backline of the animal to feel the bumps. A visual method of inspection can only be used if the hair on the back of the animal is shaven to expose the warble cysts.

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Contact:

Ali Khan
427-9051

March 10, 1986

For immediate release

Bran bait spreader provides constant application rates

The Agriculture Canada research station in Saskatoon has developed an air-assisted dry bran bait spreader for grasshopper control which provides constant application rates regardless of ground speed. The truck-mounted spreader distributes wheat bran baits at rates of 2 - 12 lb/ac (2.25 - 13 kg/ha), in a 10-metre swath at variable speeds over both smooth and rough terrain. This is an operation for which there is no equipment available commercially.

The spreader was built following the pattern of the old style spinning disk spreaders. The spreader is mounted on the rear of a four-wheel-drive truck. Bran is delivered by a small metering auger to a 6-cm squirrel cage fan mounted with its discharge directed towards the rear of the vehicle. The air stream containing the bran is split and directed to both sides of the vehicle. A baffle in the air duct prevents the bran from settling to the bottom of the air stream before leaving the outlets. A power-take-off from the truck's transfer case runs the metering auger through a variable speed belt drive.

With the variable drive the delivery rate of bran to the fan outlet can be adjusted over a wide range. The drive from the transfer case keeps the feeding rate proportional to the forward speed to yield a constant application rate. Stopping the vehicle also stops the auger, preventing localized overdosing.

(Cont'd)

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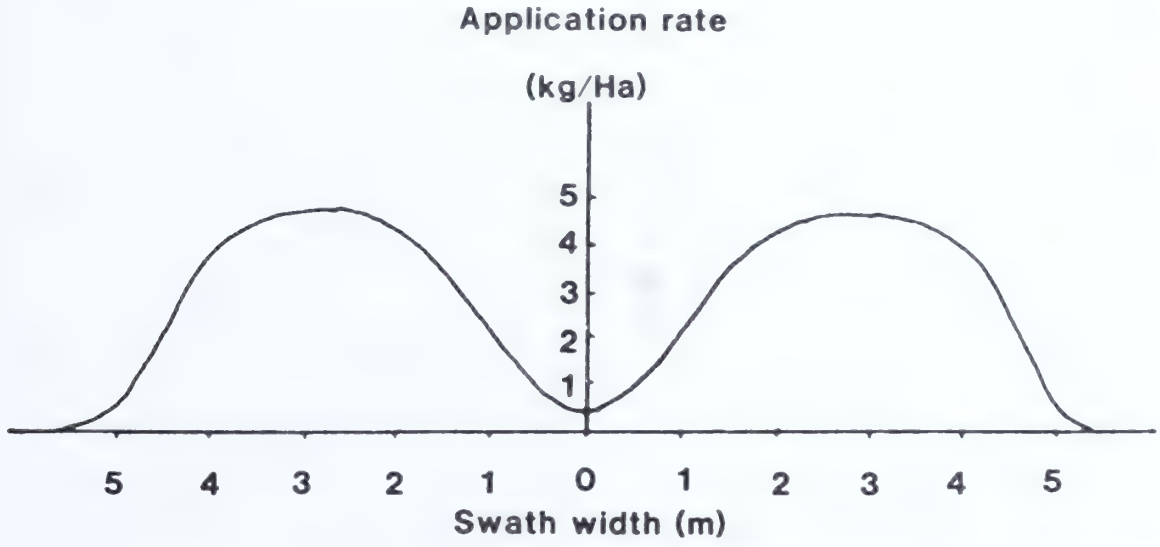
Bran bait spreader provides constant application rates (cont'd)

Experience over three seasons has indicated that this applicator is capable of applying bran bait at rates within five per cent of the desired rate. The swath pattern of the spreader is strongly dependent on vehicle speed as well as wind velocity with respect to the vehicle. Under calm air conditions, with the vehicle kept stationary by shifting the transfer case selector to neutral, the swath pattern looks like this:



The spreader was used in a series of comparative tests with four insecticides which were formulated as baits. During the course of these trials baits were applied at rates of 2, 3.5, 6,8,10,and 28 lb/ac (2.25, 4 , 7, 9, 11, and 31 kg/ha). Application speeds ranged from 4 to 36 lb/ac (5 to 40 km/h) depending on ground conditions. Spreader passes were made at 10-metre intervals to the extent that the terrain permitted. Some of these trials were carried out on rough terrain which required the use of the truck's four wheel drive in order to climb steep slopes. There was no indication of a reduction in efficacy of the applications carried out under these conditions.

(Cont'd)

Bran bait spreader provides contstant application rates (cont'd)

Treatments were completed in about one-half the time required by the conventional ground spray equipment used as a control in biological tests of efficacy which were carried out, because of the higher speeds possible, particularly over rough terrain.

For further information contact: R.J. Ford, Agriculture Canada Research Station, 107 Science Crescent, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, S7N OX2.

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Contact:

John Kienholz
427-2181

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Phone: (403) 427-2121

March 10, 1986

For immediate release

Performance testing in sheep

There is a difference between "selecting" sheep and "culling" them. Culling involves the use of physical marks such as paint brands and cutting the tip off an ear to identify and weed out the bad performers. But, according to John Knapp, Alberta Agriculture's sheep specialist at Airdrie, although culling may identify the bottom 10 per cent in any one flock it is unable to assess the productivity of the vast majority of animals in that flock. "Culling can prevent a mediocre group of sheep from getting worse, but it cannot produce any dramatic long-term improvement in their ability to generate income," he says.

Selection, on the other hand, involves the use of performance testing to identify the top producers in a flock. By using the correct selection procedures these animals' superior performance can be propagated thereby producing a dramatic improvement in net income.

Selection on the basis of performance in the Canadian situation means enrolment in a provincial R.O.P. (Record of Performance) program. R.O.P. is a system of determining an animal's genetic capability by analysing data that has been compiled on a computer. For example, to compare a 40 kilogram twin ewe lamb by a yearling ewe against a 50 kilogram single male lamb reared by a mature ewe, an examination of tens of thousands of lamb weights in Canada would be done.

(Cont'd)

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Performance testing in sheep (cont'd)

It would reveal that the single ram lamb would grow 33 per cent faster than the twin ewe lamb. As a result the R.O.P. computer would multiply 40 kg x 1.33 = 53.2 kg indicating that the smaller twin ewe lamb is in fact genetically capable of a faster growth rate than the larger single male.

After all the lambs' weights have been adjusted for type of birth, type of rearing, sex and age of dam they are indexed in relation to their contemporaries. There are three indexes: the 100 day index, the multiple index and the ewe index. Each has a specific use.

The 100 day index is purely a reflection of the lamb's adjusted growth rate in relation to its contemporaries. If, for example, producers were looking for a terminal sire where growth rate was the only quality that mattered, they might consider a ram whose 100 day index indicated he grew 30 per cent faster than the average lamb in the flock. He should transmit this highly heritable trait to his offspring. On the other hand, no matter how good he "looked" a ram whose 100 day index indicated he grew 14 per cent slower than the average lamb in the flock would be a terrible choice.

The multi trait index is based not only on a lamb's growth rate, but also on its litter size and type of rearing (single, twin, triplet, etc.) which reflects the dam's milking ability and the lamb's ability to survive.Use of the multi trait index allows the producer to select simultaneously for these three traits. It is used to choose female replacements and to select rams for producing flock replacements. For example, if a ram was born and reared as a twin, his multi trait index would probably be several points higher than his 100 day index.

(Cont'd)

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Performance testing in sheep (cont'd)

A ram with a 100 day index of 120 and multi index of 127 for example, would be a good choice for a sire of replacement females.

The ewe index is based on the total adjusted kilograms of lamb the ewe weaned at the end of her lactation at 50 days. A ewe whose indexes in her first and second lambings were 131 and 124 respectively, would be an excellent source for selection of replacement females.

The fact that performance testing can dramatically increase producers' income has been proven by many other agricultural sectors. For example, almost every financially successful dairy farmer is enrolled on a vigorous performance testing program.

Mr. Knapp warns, however, that performance testing can be dangerous if it is not tempered by common sense. "Once the best animals have been selected on paper they should be examined for functional traits," he says. Inevitably, some very high indexing animals that fail the "eyeball" test will have to be culled. If they are not, unfit offspring will be produced which would be unfair to pass on to future breeders.

"When performance testing is used with common sense, though, it is the most powerful tool at a producer's disposal to make rapid genetic progress and enhance net income," says Knapp.

Instant turnaround time is now available on the provincial R.O.P. program. For more information contact John Knapp, Airdrie regional office, telephone 948-5101.

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Contact:

John Knapp
948-5101

March 10, 1986

For immediate release

4-H scholarship opportunities

Alberta post-secondary students with a 4-H background are encouraged to apply for 4-H further education awards. "Thirty students will be selected and approximately $20,000 will be awarded," reports Elizabeth Webster, Alberta Agriculture's provincial 4-H personal development specialist. The value of the awards range from $250 to $3000.

Selection criteria vary according to the award. "Achievement in 4-H, involvement in the community and academic performance are the key factors we consider," notes Webster. The awards have been donated by various individuals or organizations who specified recipient requirements. Since many of these awards are aimed at first year students, grade 12 students will be especially interested in these opportunities.

4-H members or 4-H alumni who are interested in applying for one of these special 4-H awards can obtain more information and application forms from their district home economist or from their regional 4-H specialist.

June 15, 1986 will be the deadline for receipt of applications by Alberta Agriculture's 4-H branch in Edmonton.

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Contact:

Elizabeth Webster
427-2541

March 10, 1986

For immediate release

Alberta Swine Record of Performance Program releases 1985 annual report

The Alberta Swine Record of Performance (R.O.P.) Program (recently renamed Swine Improvement Program) has released its 1985 annual report.

The program is designed mainly to test potential breeding animals (boars and gilts) on seedstock farms which supply the commercial swine industry and AI units. The traits measured are backfat in millimetres and days from birth to 90 kilograms on farms, or backfat and average daily gain between 30 and 90 kilograms at the test stations.

In 1985 the provincial technical staff tested 18,115 pigs on farms -- 5,641 boars and 12,474 gilts. The previous year 18,168 pigs were tested. Here are the performance parameters of age and backfat for 1985 with 1984 figures in brackets:

	Average Backfat (mm)	Average Age Birth to 90 kg (days)
Boars	14.3 (14.1)	157 (157)
Gilts	15.6 (15.4)	169 (171)

(Cont'd)

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Alberta Swine Record of Performance program releases 1985 annual report (cont'd)

Also, there were 794 boars tested in the two test stations owned and operated by Agriculture Canada. This compares to 872 last year, a reduction of 10 per cent which is probably due to the increase in testing fees from $10 to $50 per boar imposed by the federal government in June 1985. Here are the performance parameters for both stations with 1984 figures in brackets: Average backfat in mm 14.5 (14.0); average daily gain 30 - 90 kg 0.92 (0.91); average feed conversion 2.41 (2.45); average age to 90 kg in days 145 (144)

The sow productivity portion of the program also became fully operational with eight herds submitting data on a regular basis.

The annual report is available to the public. To obtain a copy contact the Pork Industry Branch at #204, 7000 - 113 Street, Edmonton, T6H 5T6 or phone 427-5319.

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Contact:

Art Lange
427-5319

March 10, 1986

For immediate release

Stretching the pesticide dollar through application accuracy

"Stretching the Pesticide Dollar Through Application Accuracy" is a seminar sponsored by Alberta Agriculture in conjunction with the Peace Country Classic Agri-Show, March 13-15. The seminar, part of the Crop Protection '86 home study course, will be held on March 14 under the Grandstand at the Evergreen Park in Grande Prairie.

At the seminar, speakers from across Canada will provide the latest information on effective application and safe use of pesticides. The keynote speaker will be Mr. Ralph Walker, John Brooks Canada Ltd., Mississauga, who will address the principles and concepts of application accuracy with ground sprayers. Dr. Bill Reed, with the University of Saskatchewan will discuss his research on a new sprayer system called the chemical injection system. Mr. Gary Bauman, Uniroyal, Mississauga, will deal with effective application of seed treatments.

Many herbicides today require surfactants and Dr. John O'Donovan with the Alberta Environmental Centre, will deal with why surfactants are needed and more importantly which ones to choose to maximize herbicide performance. Finally Dr. Moe Hussain, with Alberta Agriculture, will discuss pesticide safety and hired help -- what are our responsibilities and how do we prevent exposure.

(Cont'd)

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Stretching the pesticide dollar through application accuracy seminar (cont'd)

Admission is free and refreshments will be provided.

For further information contact: crop protection branch, Alberta Agriculture, 2nd Floor, 7000 - 113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6, telephone 427-5328.

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Contact:

Denise Maurice
427-5328

March 10, 1986

For immediate release

4-H search for mascot

A 4-H mascot is hiding somewhere in Alberta.

The mascot is known to be hidden in the imagination of a young artist between the ages of 10 and 18 years. Persons in that age range are asked to submit a drawing of what they think the 4-H mascot would look like.

The search for an official Alberta 4-H mascot is the brainchild of a 4-H youth advisory team. The teenaged group was recently formed to advise members of the Alberta Agriculture 4-H branch promotion committee. One of the team's first ideas was to use a mascot to promote the popular 4-H movement.

The winning sketch will be used in a wide range of promotional applications including a life-sized costume. The 4-H mascot costume may be worn at rodeos and public events including the Calgary Stampede and Edmonton Klondike parades.

A grand prize of $144.44 plus assorted 4-H promotional prizes is offered to the winning entry. First and second prizes are offered in three different age groups in order to encourage participation by youth throughout the 10 to 18 age range. First prize is $88.88 plus 4-H promotional materials and second prize is $44.44 and promotional materials. The three categories are students in elementary grades four to six, junior high school grades seven to nine and high school grades ten to twelve. The cash prizes are provided equally by Alberta Grocers Wholesale and Associated Grocers Wholesale.

(Cont'd)

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4-H search for mascot (Cont'd)

Entrants are asked to draw and color a full length sketch, front and back, head and toe. It may be any shape but must be useable as a costume for an adult-sized person to wear. With their sketch, the artists must include their name, address, telephone number, age, grade, school, whether or not they are a 4-H member and name of their club if they are an active 4-H'er. They should also suggest a name for their mascot and a brief statement explaining why their character should be the official Alberta 4-H mascot. The sketch is to be drawn on a standard 8½ by 11-inch white paper.

Entries must be mailed to "4-H Mascot Contest," Box 550, Edmonton, T5J 2K8. All entries must be received by 12 noon, Friday, May 16. For further information, contact your local regional 4-H specialist or district home economist.

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Contact:

Bob Coe
427-2541

March 10, 1986

For immediate release

Course for probationary and select seed growers offered

On April 1 and 2 the Alberta branch of the Canadian Seed Growers Association (C.S.G.A.) will hold a short course for probationary and select seed growers.

The first day of the course will feature Bill Witbeck with Alberta Agriculture's field crops branch in Lacombe who will discuss the requirements and procedures for starting probation and the role of the select grower. Jo Campbell, C.S.G.A., Ottawa, will talk about land use and the reason behind crop declines. In the afternoon, Dr. Martin Kaufman, Dr. Solomon Kibite and Felix Mederick will review wheat, barley and oat variety identification.

Barry Gordon with Agriculture Canada's plant products division in Calgary will begin the second day of the course by explaining what plant product inspectors look for during plot inspection. Finally, Ernie Kvarnberg of Coleman, Alberta will share his experiences as a select seed grower.

The course will be held at the Lacombe Memorial Centre, 5214 - 50 Avenue, Lacombe, Alberta beginning at 9:15 a.m. Probationary growers, select growers or anyone interested in becoming a probationary grower is encouraged to attend. For further information please contact Bill Witbeck at 782-4641.

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Contact:

Bill Witbeck
782-4641

March 10, 1986

For immediate release

District home economist in training at Barrhead

Dianne Sheppard has begun training as a district home economist at Alberta Agriculture's Barrhead office. The appointment, which was effective February 24, was announced by Faye Douglas Phillips, the regional home economist at Barrhead.

Ms. Sheppard was raised in Sudbury, Ontario where she lived until she enrolled at Humber College in Toronto. She went on to attend the University of Guelph where she graduated in 1982 with a B.Sc. in family studies.

Ms. Sheppard has worked at the Ottawa and Calgary YMCA's where she was involved in preschool, fitness and nutrition programs.

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Contact:

Dianne Sheppard
674-8213

March 10, 1986

For immediate release

District home economist in training at Fairview

Joan Heath joined Alberta Agriculture's Fairview office as a district home economist in training on February 24. The appointment was announced by Shirley Myers, head of the home economics branch.

Specializing in financial management and foods and nutrition, Ms. Heath will be working with farm families in the Fairview area.

Ms. Heath was raised on a beef cattle farm near Dauphin, Manitoba. She attended the University of Manitoba where she graduated in 1985 with a bachelor's degree in human ecology.

She has worked with Manitoba Agriculture in Dauphin and Treherne as a summer assistant home economist.

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Contact:

Joan Heath
835-2241

March 10, 1986

For immediate release

Debt crisis in agriculture - the federal government's budgetary response

On February 26, 1986, Finance Minister Michael Wilson showed Canadian farmers how he was going to deal with the debt crisis in agriculture. Three major programs are being implemented to deal with this crisis.

Although full details are not yet available, the following is a brief summary of the objectives of each program as announced in the budget.

1. Commodity-based mortgages, farm credit corporation

This $700 million dollar program is a two-year introductory program beginning April 1, 1986. The amount approved in the first year of the program may not exceed $300 million. The additional $400 million will be allocated in the second year.

The program is meant to address the issue of farm failures and the inability of existing financial instruments to deal adequately with cash flow variations. To some degree it provides a link between debt repayment and the ability of the farm enterprise to pay.

The program is limited to existing FCC borrowers and is not a subsidy program.

Commodity based loans will be offered for a 10-year term with payments based on a 20-year amortization period.

(Cont'd)

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Debt crisis in agriculture - the federal government's budgetary response (cont'd)

There are two options available:

A. Full-indexing option

Borrowers with 40 per cent or less equity may qualify for the full-indexing option. The client pays an interest rate of six per cent for a 10-year term.

Prior to the regular payment due date, the remaining principal will be increased or decreased by the percentage increase or decrease in commodity prices from the previous year. For example, if commodity prices increase five per cent over last year, the principal balance of the loan would increase by five per cent.

B. Partial-indexing option

Borrowers having between 41 and 55 per cent equity inclusively may qualify for this option. The borrower pays an interest rate of six per cent plus one-half the difference between six per cent and FCC's regular 10-year rate at the time the loan is approved. At the present time this rate would be 9 1/8 per cent.

Prior to the regular payment due date, the remaining principal balance will be increased or decreased by one-half the percentage increase or decrease in commodity prices. For example, if commodity prices increase by five per cent, the principal would increase by 2.5 per cent.

(Cont'd)

Debt crisis in agriculture - the federal government's budgetary response (cont'd)

A borrower may select up to two commodity prices or indices to be applied to the loan. If two are selected, they will each be given a 50 per cent weighting in the calculation of the principal balance. The prices or indices chosen must correspond to the main enterprise(s) of the borrower.

The actual index for each commodity will be supplied by Agriculture Canada and Statistics Canada.

2. Farm debt review panels

Farm debt review panels will be established to provide an advisory service to farmers facing insolvency. These panels will be composed of individuals knowledgeable in farming and financial matters, and will provide a full and impartial review of the farmer's financial situation. The panel will attempt to establish communication between the farmer and the creditor and then try to bring about a **voluntary** arrangement between them.

3. Rural transition program

To ease the transition for those farmers that must seek alternative employment, the government is establishing the Canadian Rural Transition Program. This program will offer farmers job counselling and retraining, as well as interim financial help.

When additional information on any of the above federal programs becomes available, the details will be announced.

Contact:

Doug Barlund 556-4245
Alex Ostapiuk 556-4235

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Phone: (403) 427-2121

AGRI-NEWS

March 17, 1986

For immediate release

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March 17, 1986

For immediate release

Tax management strategies for Alberta farmers

Farmers who think that they may be paying too much income tax will be interested to know that Alberta Agriculture, in cooperation with the chartered accountant firm, Deloitte Haskins and Sells, have released an updated version of the publication, *Tax Management Strategies for Alberta Farmers*.

It outlines the strategies that can be used to save money on 1985 tax returns, and it provides a reasonably complete and easy to understand practical guide for farmers who want to plan for their 1986 tax returns.

The publication gives details on the new $500,000 capital gains exemption and the proposed Alternative Minimum Tax, as well as block averaging and applying losses to reduce 1985 taxes.

Among the areas covered for those who want to plan their 1986 tax returns are the tax planning implications of various types of business arrangements, estate planning and the claiming of the capital cost allowance and investment tax credits.

Tax Management Strategies for Alberta Farmers covers all the changes to the Income Tax Act that have been passed into law up to now, but it does not include the proposed changes in the February 26, 1986 federal budget.

(Cont'd)

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Tax management strategies for Alberta farmers (cont'd)

Although it is intended primarily for full-time farmers, those farming on a part-time basis will also find the publication useful.

Copies of *Tax Management Strategies for Alberta Farmers*, Agdex 837, can be obtained from district agriculturists, the farm business management branch, Box 2000, Olds, Alberta, T0M 1P0 or by writing to the Publications Office, Alberta Agriculture, 7000 - 113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6.

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Contact:

Maggie Lamb
556-4238

March 17, 1986

For immediate release

Deadline extended - Alberta red meat interim insurance payment

The deadline for application under the Alberta Red Meat Interim Insurance Payment has been extended from January 15, 1986 to March 31, 1986. Payments are available for slaughter cattle and hogs sold from April 1, 1985 to September 30, 1985. This program ended December 31, 1985 after which the National Red Meat Price Stabilization schemes were to take effect. No payments were indicated for the September to December 1985 quarter

Net payments were as follows: (on a per head basis by month of sale)

	April-June 85	July-September 85	October-December 85
Slaughter cattle	$22.86	$79.75	0
Slaughter hogs	$10.11	$14.30	0

Payments included federal Agricultural Stabilization Act payments of $28.22 per head of slaughter cattle for the July to September quarter; $2.02 per hog for the April to June quarter and $4.51 per hog for the July to September quarter.

Producers who missed the January 15 deadline are urged to obtain application forms from Alberta Agriculture district offices and submit them by March 31. As March 31 falls in the Easter weekend, the effective deadline is March 27.

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Contact:

Fred Schuld
427-5320

March 17, 1986

For immediate release

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Contact:

Fred Schuld
427-5320

March 17, 1986

For immediate release

To prune or not to prune?

"To prune or not to prune?" is not the question. The question should be "When and how do I properly prune?" And, in Alberta, where most pruning is done in March and April, the answer to this question is especially timely.

Pruning is the process of removing parts of plants (trees, shrubs and others). The degree of pruning done on trees and shrubs has become the center of strong arguments in the horticultural field. However, most of the arguments come from areas of the world where environmental conditions vary greatly from Alberta's, says George Grainger with the Alberta Tree Nursery and Horticulture Centre. Therefore, he says, plants respond very differently to treatments or lack of treatments.

The most pressing question on pruning, reports Mr. Grainger, is how much to prune. "Keep in mind, the more wounds that are made and the larger the wounds, the more unsound the plant becomes," he says. A woody plant with no wounds, either natural or man-made, is very structurally sound (assuming no disease or other pests). The moment large cuts are made, the process of decay and weakening of the structure begins.

(Cont'd)

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To prune or not to prune? (Cont'd)

Since woody plants can structurally wall off decaying or unsound internal wood, it follows that the smaller the unsound areas, the sounder the plant remains. Think of a tree as a series of pipes, one inside another. These pipes bend to accommodate branches. When a branch is removed, all the pipes cut are susceptible to the entrance of decay organisms. The plant protects itself internally be walling off the damaged pipes from the undamaged as the decay proceeds into the stem. Unless there are leaks in the pipe, the decay remains walled until the tree dies.

There is no process that brings the "dead" internal wood back to life. However, pruners should be concerned with maintaining the dead wood in sound condition. By cutting off branches or tops of woody plants, the internal pipe system is vulnerable. It is best to prune carefully when the plant is young, making the smallest wounds possible, advises Mr. Grainger.

The formation of callous tissue is of major importance. The larger the cut, the longer it takes for the callous to cover the wound. Therefore, the smaller and fewer the cuts, the less damage to the pipes.

The application of thin spray-on dressings or wound dressings on cuts is merely cosmetic and does nothing to help plants recover from pruning wounds.Heavy wound dressing applications, however, can be used on large wounds where the plant is susceptible to disease and insects.

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Contact:

George Grainger
973-3351

March 17, 1986

For immediate release

Assistance available for Alberta farmers

It isn't easy keeping track of the eligibility criteria for various agricultural grants and assistance programs, let alone knowing who to contact for details. To help farm producers keep informed of such programs, Alberta Agriculture's farm business management branch has published the booklet *Assistance Available for Alberta Farmers*, Agdex 871.

This publication provides a listing of the various agricultural assistance programs available from the provincial and federal government. It lists about 70 programs, briefly outlining eligibility requirements and where to apply. A new section, "Temporary Drought Related Programs", has been added this year. Listed under "Additional Services" are 27 management assistance programs and services available to Alberta producers. The first contact for the majority of these services is an Alberta Agriculture district office.

Wanda Gratz of the farm business management branch says that because assistance programs are frequently adjusted to meet changing needs and circumstances, it is essential to contact the agencies administering the programs for up to date information. However, this publication will be valuable to keep on file as a reference. Every effort has been made to ensure accuracy of program information as of January, 1986, but details are subject to change at any time.

(Cont'd)

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Assistance available for Alberta farmers (cont'd)

This publication was distributed this year as a supplement to the March issue of *Farm, Light and Power*. Additional copies of this publication can be obtained from Alberta Agriculture district offices, the farm business management branch, Olds, Alberta; or the Publications Office, 7000 - 113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6.

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Contact:

Wanda Gratz
556-4240

March 17, 1986

For immediate release

Shock chlorinate your well this spring

With the coming of spring, many farm households could be suffering from the nuisance of iron bacteria without realizing it. Archie Archampong, a water engineer with Alberta Agriculture, says that an iron bacteria problem can be confirmed by opening the back of the toilet flush tank and checking for the presence of brown or black slimy growth or a greasy film on the water.

Iron bacteria grow in wells and at the bottom of poorly aerated dugouts. Generally considered a nuisance bacteria, it does not affect human and animal health. The bacteria derive their energy from iron minerals in water and concentrate the iron content of the water. Because of this behavior, the iron content of the water will gradually increase and create problems that are typical of iron-rich water. The water develops a metallic taste and leaves a rust-colored stain in laundry, cooking utensils and plumbing fixtures. Potatoes boiled in such water will turn black. The iron combines with tannins in tea and coffee to produce an inky black appearance. If whiskey is mixed with iron-rich water the resulting mixture turns dark or black.

The incrustations produced by iron bacteria plug well screens and the plumbing system. They also aggravate the effect of gas-producing strains of bacteria causing taps to spurt when drawing water.

(Cont'd)

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Shock chlorinate your well this spring (cont'd)

Mr. Archampong says that if the bacteria are not held in check soon after they are discovered, sister strains of sulphate-reducing bacteria will start to grow and produce a rotten-egg (hydrogen sulphate) smell.

The recommended treatment for controlling iron bacteria is shock chlorination. Here is the procedure:

1. Store sufficient water to meet farm and family needs for eight to twelve hours.
2. Pump 1000 L (200 gal) of water into a clean storage near the wellhead. A clean galvanized stock tank, a boat or pick up truck box lined with a 4 ml polyethylene membrane provide a suitable container.
3. Mix 20 L of laundry bleach (5-25 per cent chlorine) with the water.
4. Drain the mixture into the well.
5. Open each outlet (including dishwashers, washing machines, etc.) in the water distribution system until the water coming out has a chlorine-like odor.
6. Leave the water system for eight to twelve hours. The longer the contact time the better the results.
7. Open an outside tap and run the water out to a safe place - not on your lawn or favorite plant.
8. Backwash and regenerate any water treatment equipment.

Last summer, Alberta Agriculture's engineering branch produced a video movie on shock chlorination and control of iron bacteria. "The video has been used at seminars and water treatment courses with very positive public response," says Mr. Archampong. VHS copies of the tape can now be borrowed from your local agricultural engineering technologist.

(Cont'd)

Shock chlorinate your well this spring (cont'd)

For information and assistance on shock chlorination, contact your regional engineering technologist or district agriculturist. Alberta Agriculture's publication, *Shock Chlorination and Control of Iron Bacteria*, Agdex FS716 (D12), also provides useful information on the subject. To obtain a copy write to the Publications Office, 7000 - 113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6.

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Contact:

Archie Archampong
427-2131

March 17, 1986

For immediate release

Mud in the feed area can cause feed wastage

"Don't forget about feed wastage when deciding how much hay to give your cows, especially in the coming weeks," says Alberta Agriculture ruminant nutritionist, Al McNeil.

A common practice in many cow-calf operations is to feed hay on the ground. With the coming of spring, mud in the feed area becomes a major concern since a large portion of the feed offered may be wasted.

"The most nutritious part of the plant -- the leaf -- will be lost, leaving the less nutritious stem just when the cow's nutritional requirements are greatest," says Mr. McNeil.

Feed wastage research suggests that 30 per cent or more of the hay offered on the ground may be lost due to trampling or fouling. When this happens animal production is affected.

Consider a 1300-pound beef cow producing 20 pounds of milk per day. The suggested ration is:

30 pounds legume/grass hay

3 pounds barley grain

3 ounces 1:1 mineral

plus trace mineral salt and vitamin ADE

(Cont'd)

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Mud in the feed area can cause feed waste (cont'd)

Assume the grain, salt, minerals and vitamins are fed in a bunk and the hay is fed on the ground. Although losses from the bunk are low, perhaps 30 per cent of the hay is not eaten.

"It is the amount of nutrients eaten, not the amount of hay offered, that gives cow productivity," says Mr. McNeil. "A cow in good condition can provide energy from the body reserves for milk production but she can't provide protein for milk this way."

The 30 per cent drop in hay eaten means a 25 per cent reduction in the level of crude protein available from the whole ration. This translates into a drop of about 40 per cent in milk production since some protein must be used for maintenance. The cow producing 20 pounds of milk is now producing 12 pounds. The result is reduced productivity because of lower calf gains and therefore reduced profitability.

Profitability is also reduced in another way. If hay is valued at three cents per pound and grain at five cents per pound, total feed costs are $1.05 per day. If, in order to counter wastage, an additional 30 per cent hay is added to the ration, feed costs jump 27 cents to a total of $1.32 per cow per day.

"Feed waste is hard to see, however, it can't be ignored in the coming weeks when mud compounds the problem," says Mr. McNeil.

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Contact:

Al McNeil
436-9150

March 17, 1986

For immediate release

New barley variety for Peace region

Barley production has contributed substantially to the income of producers in northwestern Canada. The main constraint to production is a short, cool growing season.

Now, overcoming this restraint, is a new six-rowed variety of feed barley, called Jackson, which has been licensed for the Peace River region in Alberta and British Columbia.

"It is six days earlier in maturity than the variety Diamond and eight days earlier than the variety Galt," says Dr. Bob Wolfe with the Agriculture Canada Research Station at Beaverlodge, "but it's five per cent lower yielding."

Jackson is seven per cent higher yielding, two days later maturing and stronger strawed than its direct competitor, the variety Otal.

Barley is currently grown on 1.1 million acres (440,000 ha) in the Peace River region.

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Contact:

Dr. Bob Wolfe
354-2212

March 17, 1986

For immediate release

New updated custom rates publications

Three updated custom rates publications have been released by Alberta Agriculture. These are the ***Directory of Custom Operators in Alberta - 1986***, the ***Custom Rates Annual Survey Summary - 1985*** and ***Farm Machinery Costs as a Guide to Custom Rates - Spring 1986***.

The ***Directory of Custom Operators in Alberta - 1986***, Agdex 825-17, lists the custom operator's name, town, telephone number and type of custom service offered. The directory should benefit both the farmer and custom operators. Farmers will become familiar with some of the custom operators in their area and custom operators will benefit from the publicity. The operators listed submitted their names voluntarily and their listing does not indicate a recommendation by Alberta Agriculture. A 1987 directory will be published and operators who want to be listed, including those in the 1986 directory, must contact the farm business management branch by December, 1986.

The Custom Rates Annual Survey Summary - 1985, Agdex 825-9, publishes the results of the survey of custom and rental rates conducted by Alberta Agriculture each year. This publication is useful in determining the rates others are paying or charging for the listed services. The rates are listed according to the six agricultural regions in Alberta and are given as a price range and the most common prices for 1985. These rates are intended only as a guide for 1986, and are not to be interpreted as the rates you should charge or pay.

(Cont'd)

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New updated custom rates publications (cont'd)

Farm Machinery Costs as a Guide to Custom Rates - Spring 1986, Agdex 825-4, is available for custom operators who want to compare their charges and costs. For farmers hiring custom operators, it gives a reference for estimating costs for the next season. The guide calculates the cost for different sized machinery used in major field and livestock operations based on fixed costs (depreciation, investment cost, insurance, housing) and variable costs (fuel, lubrication, labor and repairs. As in previous years, this publication is only intended as a guide to be adjusted for individual circumstances to determine actual costs.

These publications may be obtained from Alberta Agriculture district offices, the farm business management branch, Box 2000, Olds, Alberta, T0M 1P0; or the Publications Office, 7000 - 113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6.

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Contact:

Garth Nickorick
556-4247

March 17, 1986

For immediate release

Alberta hay management symposiums

Five Alberta hay management symposiums will be held throughout the province, April 1 to 5.

The symposiums will feature Dwayne Rohweder, a forage specialist with the University of Wisconsin, who will discuss intensive hay management; and Marshall Eliason, a farm machinery engineer with Alberta Agriculture, who will talk about the economics of hay storage. Making intensive management work will be the subject of a panel discussion among producers and researchers which will wrap up the symposium.

The symposiums will be held: April 1, CDA Research Station, Lethbridge; April 2, Olds College, Olds; April 3, Lakeland College, Vermilion; April 4, Stony Plain Community Hall; April 5, Fairview College, Fairview. They will run from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

The pre-registration fee of $15 per person should be submitted by March 24. Further information and registration forms are available at Alberta Agriculture district offices and local forage associations.

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Contact:

Myron Bjorge
782-4641

March 17,1986

For immediate release

District home economist in training appointed

Cynthia L. Bishop has been appointed district home economist in training at Alberta Agriculture's Camrose office. The appointment which was effective February 24 was announced by Shirley Myers, head of the home economics branch.

Born and raised in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Miss Bishop graduated from the University of Manitoba in 1984 with a bachelor's degree in human ecology.

Miss Bishop will work with Marian Williams, the established district home economist in Camrose, serving farm families in the areas of foods and nutrition, financial management, consumer education and 4-H. One of her responsibilities will be coordinating the Nutrition at School (NAS) program at elementary schools in the Camrose district.

Miss Bishop has worked as a community service worker with the City of Winnipeg's environmental planning department and as a volunteer with the executive of Synchro Swim Manitoba.

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Contact:

Cynthia Bishop
679-1210

AGRI-NEWS

March 24, 1986

For immediate release

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March 24, 1986

For immediate release

Don't sell your 1985 income loss short

A 1985 farming loss could possibly be turned into a 1985 tax gain if one or more of the following three maximum income averaging options are used. These options are only available if the tax return is filed by April 30, 1986.

Livestock Inventory Provision (LIP)

LIP allows any amount up to the market value of livestock on hand at December 31, 1985 (other than basic herd) to be included in farming income on line 505 of the 1985 farm tax return. This artificial inflation of farm income enables all eligible losses and personal exemptions to be recouped. In the following year (1986), whatever is added to income on line 505 of the 1985 farm tax return must be included as an expense on the appropriate line of the 1986 farm tax return. This would be similar to line 325 on the 1985 tax return.

To be eligible for LIP, a farmer must be on the cash basis method of income tax filing and own cattle, sheep, bees, fur bearing animals, etc. for business purposes on December 31, 1985.

Loss Carry-Back and Carry-Forward

This averaging method allows losses to be carried back a maximum of three years and forward a maximum of 10 years. Maximum gain can be obtained from these losses by applying portions of (or all) of the loss against year(s) with positive net income to obtain the most taxable benefit.

(Cont'd)

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Don't sell your 1985 income loss short (Cont'd)

This income averaging method can be used by any farmer in any enterprise. Farmers with livestock have a greater advantage because the LIP can be used to recoup any lost personal exemptions in the year of the loss.

To carry losses back, a complete T1A Request for Loss Carry-Back must be filed since Revenue Canada does not do this automatically.

Five-Year Block Average

To be eligible for the five-year block average, the following requirements must be satisfied:

1. The four previous tax returns within the five year block must be filed by the date necessary if there is any net federal tax payable. This date, for most farmers, is April 30 following each taxation year.

If there was not any federal tax payable in any one year that is to be included in the block average, the taxpayer may not have filed a tax return for that year unless Revenue Canada had requested a tax return for the particular year. This not filing or filing when requested, would technically not be considered a late file because there was not any net federal tax payable. If that particular year is to be included in the block average, a return for the missing year(s) must be filed on or before the date that the election to (block) average form (T2011) is due. See requirement # 6.

(Cont'd)

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Don't sell your 1985 income loss short (Cont'd)

2. The chief source of income must be farming in the five-year period of the block average.

3. Any year more than six years before the year of averaging cannot be included.

4. Once done, block averaging cannot be repeated again for another five years.

5. Those years, within which an amount has been added to or deducted from taxable income via the forward averaging method provision, are not eligible for the block average.

6. To block average, a completed T2011 Election to Average Income must be filed by April 30, 1986, since it is not automatically calculated by Revenue Canada.

Remember, losses arising within the three years after a block average cannot be carried back to years included in a block averaging period.

By artificially inflating income through LIP in the year of averaging, the increase in tax payable may be minimal as the additional income is spread over a five-year period. This results in a large carryover of expense into the next year and therefore can be very effective if a high income is expected in the year following the block averaging period.

Example Case

Assume Fred Jones, who is a livestock producer, had a $10,000 loss in 1984 and had minimal taxable income in 1981, 1982 and 1983. In 1985 his net income was $3,400. The market value of his cattle at December 31, 1985 was $50,000. Fred is married and has two children under the age of 17 so his personal exemptions total $9,000.

(Cont'd)

Don't sell your 1985 income loss short (Cont'd)

Although Mr. Jones would have no taxable income in 1985, he would be advised to add sufficient income through LIP of $7,000 to increase his net income to $10,400. When personal exemptions of $9,000 are subtracted, Fred's taxable income would be $1,400 and would not be taxed since it is within the tax-free zone. Furthermore, the 1984 $10,000 loss should not be left on the books if Fred can increase his income. Therefore, the strategy would be to further increase his LIP by $21,000 in order to recoup the 1984 loss of $10,000, personal exemptions of approximately $9,000 and use the 1984 tax free-zone of $2,000. Mr. Jones will now have available a LIP deduction of $28,000 ($7,000 + $21,000) in 1986.

Remember, tax management is not only knowing income strategies but also how to combine the various strategies.

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Contact:

Alex Ostapiuk
Farm Business Management Branch
556-4235

March 24, 1986

For immediate release

New teachers' handbook focuses on agricultural awareness

With the continuing shift of Alberta's population from rural to urban centres, up to date information about agriculture for use in schools is at a premium.

"Several farm agencies in Alberta have recommended that an awareness program be initiated and the education community has expressed interest in the development of learning materials that provide information about Alberta's key industries," says Betty Gabert with the agricultural education services branch of Alberta Agriculture. "With this in mind, we are developing a series of four teachers' handbooks to complement the existing Alberta curriculum," she says.

Pride in Alberta, the first handbook, focuses on agricultural awareness and will be ready for distribution in May. Drafts of the handbook were piloted in Alberta classrooms to get teachers' comments in the writing and revisions of the text. The comprehensive manual is intended for teachers of grades 4, 5, and 6.

The fully-illustrated handbook contains 24 activities which explore concepts and develop skills in all major subject areas. Activities and procedures are fully developed, including student worksheets, and resource material is included to support the lessons. A complete subject and curriculum chart helps instructors select lessons that will support their curriculum requirements.

(Cont'd)

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New teachers' handbook focuses on agricultural awareness (cont'd)

"By participating in the activities outlined in this manual," says Betty Gabert," students are encouraged to find out about the homesteaders, understand agribusiness today and speculate about the future of Alberta's food production."

A marketing plan for the series is currently being developed one aspect of which includes participation in the 1987 teachers' convention.

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Contact:

Betty Gabert
427-2402

March 24, 1986

For immediate release

Verticillium wilt of alfalfa federal regulation changes

Agriculture Canada has announced changes to the mandatory treatment requirement whereby all alfalfa seedlots must be treated with Thiram. The amended control program allows for the sale and movement of seedlots without treatment provided they are free of *Verticillium albo-atrum*. Seedlots infested with this fungus can still be offered for sale provided they are treated with Thiram prior to movement and sale.

Untreated seedlots found to be positive for *Verticillium albo-atrum* will either be treated with Thiram, used for sprouting purposes or exported from Canada.

Hay comprising plants or plant parts of alfalfa may move from infested to non-infested areas of Canada provided the hay is pelletized.

Machinery and equipment used in cultivating and harvesting alfalfa which is moved from infested to non-infested areas of Canada must be decontaminated by thorough washing, steam cleaning or fumigation.

(Cont'd)

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Verticillium wilt of alfalfa federal regulation changes (Cont'd)

Agriculture Canada is offering a seed testing service to help seed growers determine if lots are free of the disease. Samples should be about 500 g (1 lb) and forwarded to: Jim Sheppard, Seed Pathology Laboratory, Agriculture Canada, Building #22, Central Experimental Farm, 960 Carling Avenue, Ottawa, KIA OC6. The fee for service testing is $29, payable to the Receiver General for Canada.

In addition, Agriculture Canada will be sending all seed growers a summary of current survey information to assist producers/processors in determining whether or not seedlots should be treated.

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Contact:

I.R. Evans
427-5350

March 24, 1986

For immediate release

Wet cattle need more feed

"Even though over-wintered cattle have thick coats and temperatures may not be cold, extra feed should be provided if animals are wet for extended periods of time," says Al McNeil, Alberta Agriculture's ruminant nutritionist. "This may certainly be the case in the next few weeks with the running water and wet holding areas that are common in spring."

Producers may wonder why extra feed is necessary when temperatures are now warmer and their cattle have just done well through some very poor weather. Mr. McNeil explains that the cattle have adjusted to poor weather conditions in part by growing a thick hair coat. When this coat is grown the animal feels comfortable at much lower temperatures because the insulative value of the animal's hide is more than doubled. When the coat is wet, 50 to 80 per cent of its insulation value is lost. Extra energy is needed to keep the animal warm and this must come from the feed. Thus, wet cattle need more feed even though temperatures are warmer.

As an example, consider an over-wintered 1100-pound cow producing 20 pounds of milk in the spring with air temperature at 0°C and no wind. A suggested ration might be:

legume/grass hay	18 pounds
barley grain	8 pounds
1:1 mineral	2.5 pounds

* plus trace mineral salt and vitamin A, D and E supplement.

(does not account for waste)

(Cont'd)

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Wet cattle need more feed (cont'd)

This ration would provide enough energy to keep a cow comfortable down to -22°C when she is dry.

If the cow is wet, her coat could lose 80 per cent of its insulative value. She would then be comfortable in temperatures only above 7°C. Although the air temperature is 0°C, the cow would need another three pounds of barley in addition to the regular ration to maintain the same level of production as when she was dry in much colder temperatures. Wind will make the situation worse and she will require still more feed.

"We can do little about the weather," says Mr. McNeil. "However, well drained, sheltered holding areas and dry bedding, in addition to more feed, can maintain the high level of production demanded of the cow."

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Contact:

Al McNeil
436-9150

March 24, 1986

For immediate release

Points to consider in this year's custom hiring agreement

Custom hiring is a business arrangement. As in all business arrangements, the agreement should outline the rights and duties of all the parties involved. A written agreement is advisable to avoid misunderstandings in case of a dispute.

Garth Nickorick, with Alberta Agriculture's farm business management branch, says that the agreement should provide a description of the exact operations to be performed by the parties and the machines, materials and labor to be supplied by each party.

Significant losses can occur if an operation is not started or completed on time. To facilitate planning, a custom hiring agreement should include a schedule of operations for both parties. Such a schedule would be subject to weather conditions and crop maturity. Reasonable notice should be provided by each party when circumstances alter the schedule for operations.

The custom operator, for each operation to be performed, should stipulate the rate on the basis of acreage, time (week, day, hour) or total operation performed.

The agreement should stipulate the terms of payment for custom operations. The custom operator should bill the client on completion of each custom operation indicating the actual units (acres, hours, etc.) completed, the rate charged per unit, the total charge and the due date for payments.

The parties should consider a clause in the agreement regarding responsibility for down-time as a result of machine breakdown.

(Cont'd)

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Points to consider in this year's custom hiring agreement (cont'd)

The agreement should include a clause for a minimum period of notice for termination. A penalty should be stated for unjustified termination of the agreement.

The parties should consider a clause stipulating the responsibility for liability claims as a result of damage to personal property.

The custom agreement should secure provisions that the custom operator will employ acceptable management practices.

Basis for contract charges

Custom charges are most commonly based on either an hourly rate or a physical unit rate. Common physical units rates are: per bushel, per tonne, per acre and per bale.

The advantages of doing custom work on a physical unit rate are:

- The custom operator can benefit from his own efficiency.
- Both parties can better estimate what the job will cost per unit.
- There is less disagreement over the amount of time worked.

The advantages of doing custom work on an hourly rate are:

- Costs are covered if fields are small, badly shaped or terrain is poor.
- There is less disagreement about the size of area covered.
- Moving time can easily be included in the total cost of the job.

The advantages of the physical unit rate are the disadvantages of the hourly rate and vice versa. Which method to use when paying or charging will depend on preference and/or negotiating skills.

(Cont'd)

Points to consider in this year's custom hiring agreement (cont'd)

For further information, contact your local district agriculturist or the farm business management branch, Box 2000, Olds, Alberta T0M 1P0.

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Contact:

Garth Nickorick
556-4247

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March 24, 1986

For immediate release

New farm housing newsletter

If you're looking for farm home plans, technical information on home renovations or how to restore a wood cookstove, chances are you'll find it in *Inside Out*. *Inside Out* is a new farm housing newsletter prepared by Alberta Agriculture engineering services six times a year.

It provides up-to-date information on a wide range of topics of interest to homeowners with special emphasis on farm home dwellers.

The newsletter offers technical news and how-to articles, discusses recent trends in home design and expands on Alberta Building Code guidelines. In addition, it provides practical solutions to common problems experienced by many farm home owners.

Copies of *Inside Out* can be obtained from Alberta Agriculture district offices or Engineering Services, Alberta Agriculture, 2nd Floor, 7000 - 113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6, telephone 427-2181.

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Contact:

Donna Bagdan
427-2181

March 24, 1986

For immediate release

District home economist appointed at Taber

Anne Luehr has been appointed district home economist at Alberta Agriculture's Taber office. The appointment which was effective March 3, 1986 was announced by Shirley Myers, head of the home economics branch.

A native of Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan, Mrs. Luehr graduated from the University of Alberta in 1974 with a B.Sc. in home economics majoring in family studies.

Previously, Mrs. Luehr was the acting district home economist at Taber.

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Contact:

Anne Luehr
223-9611

AGRI-NEWS

APR 16 1986

March 31, 1986

For immediate release

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Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Print Media Branch

Phone: (403) 427-2121

March 31, 1986

For immediate release

Soil moisture conditions

Alberta Agriculture's conservation and development branch has released a map which indicates the soil moisture conditions under stubble at the end of the 1985 season.

Dick Heywood, a water management specialist, says that generally, conditions on fallow will be better. "The difference in moisture between stubble and summerfallow will be most pronounced in the area east and south of Edmonton including Vegreville, Camrose, Vermilion and Wainwright, where good moisture reserves have been carried over from late 1984," he says.

Southern Alberta has had no permanent snow cover this winter despite good November precipitation along the southern foothills. Subsoil moisture varies from high in the west to very low in the east (northeast of Medicine Hat). Frequent

(Cont'd)

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Soil moisture conditions (Cont'd)

chinook winds during December and January have significantly dried the surface layers of the soil causing a serious wind erosion problem once again. Several snowfalls in February and March have at least temporarily reduced the wind erosion hazard.

Unfortunately, the drought in 1985 may cause farmers to revert to the traditional crop-fallow rotation. Farmers, however, are encouraged to field check for soil moisture and to consider recropping at least a portion of their land if reserve moisture is adequate. If fields are summerfallowed, they will have very little crop residue and the threat of wind erosion may be even more severe this summer and continue until the spring of 1987. It is therefore recommended that farmers consider minimizing tillage operations, spraying for weed control or seeding cover crops to reduce the risk of erosion.

Central Alberta had generally lower than normal winter precipitation to date. Some areas have not had continuous snow cover which is unusual. If significant late winter snowfall does not occur, these conditions could lead to lower than normal spring runoff and lower soil moisture levels. In the Vegreville, Lloydminster and Wainwright areas, more attention must be paid to spring soil moisture sampling because of dry fall conditions.

The snowpack condition in the southern Peace River block is less than normal, but as usual varies from one location to another. The southern Peace appears to have sufficient moisture for recropping, but field checks should still be made. Fall moisture in the northern Peace was quite variable, but the snowpack until the end of January was above normal.

(Cont'd)

Soil moisture conditions (Cont'd)

The outlook for 1986 is optimistic based on current soil moisture reserves. Under normal precipitation at least average yields in most areas can be expected. At present the areas of greatest concern are the northern Peace Region, Special Areas 3 and 4, and the Vegreville, Lloydminster and St. Paul areas.

30

Contact:

R.T. Heywood 381-5154
D. Lewis 422-4385

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March 31, 1986

For immediate release

Hog situation and outlook

Falling feed prices are expected to generate breeding herd expansion in Alberta's hog industry this spring and summer, says Alberta Agriculture livestock analyst Gordon Herrington. Initially, expansion will be moderate but it is expected to increase in the later part of 1986 and early 1987.

In Alberta, feeder hog prices have already responded to feeding cost declines and market prices have moved since the summer of 1985 from 50 cents per pound to over $1.50 per pound. "Although the feeder hog market is small it indicates a change in demand," says Herrington.

A further indication of the change in market conditions is the changes in the feed/hog ratios and the expected ratios. In late July 1985 the Alberta barley/hog ratio was approximately 1:22, by mid-February 1986 this ratio had changed to 1:30 without program assistance and 1:38 if program assistance was taken into account. Although further declines are expected to occur in both feed costs and hog prices, the barley/hog ratios are not expected to move down below the 1:30 ratio until well into 1987.

Price differentials between Alberta and United States markets are expected to be in the $8-$11 per cwt range over the next six months. Therefore, Alberta prices are expected to move down to the $58-$60 per cwt range during spring. Summer price rallies are expected to lift prices back to the $64 - $68 range and then move down in the fall.

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Contact:

Gordon Herrington
427-5376

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March 31, 1986

For immediate release

Cattle situation and outlook

The fed cattle spring price rally will be moderate because of increased supplies of fall placed early finished calves, says Gordon Herrington, Alberta Agriculture's livestock analyst. Prices should move back to the low $70 per cwt level in early summer and retreat further during mid-summer to the $67-$68 level.

"Feeder cattle price improvement will depend on feed cost changes but all factors suggest major price increases and very strong demand particularly for the lighter weights," Herrington says.

Fourth quarter fed cattle output was reduced in both Canada and the United States and this resulted in a significant increase in prices. Heifer slaughter was 20 per cent below the previous year's level in Alberta.

Movements of feeder cattle out of Alberta in the October 1985 to January 1986 period amounted to an estimated 104,000 head compared with 123,000 head a year earlier. For the year as a whole, total cattle movements out of Alberta amounted to an estimated 363,000 head.

January 1 inventory reports for both the United States and Canada indicate reduced breeding herd numbers and continued liquidation.

"Eventually slaughter will become reduced as well," says Herrington. "However, the reports indicated good short term supplies of slaughter steers and heifers."

(Cont'd)

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Cattle situation and outlook (cont'd)

The U.S. farm bill program provisions are expected to generate increased cow slaughter during 1986 and the first half of 1987.

It is estimated that the remaining supplies of feeder cattle and calves placed on feed in Alberta are substantial and will provide ample summer beef supplies. The temporary spring shortage of cattle, which normally occurs when yearling supplies give way to feedlot calf marketings, is not expected to materialize this year.

Large supplies of tough barley and the Alberta Feed Grain Market Adjustment program have contributed significantly to the strong feeder market and may well suggest an increase in farm and custom feeding during 1986.

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Contact:

Gordon Herrington
427-5376

March 31, 1986

For immediate release

Emergency farm water program deadline extended

The application deadline for the Emergency Farm Water Assistance Program has been extended to July 31, 1986.

To assist farmers develop dugouts as water sources, Alberta Agriculture will match the financial assistance provided by PFRA for individual farm water source development projects. The assistance will amount to an additional one-third of the eligible cost or specified unit cost allowances (whichever is less) to a maximum of $1,650 per project and bring the total assistance available from both sources to a maximum of $3,300 per project.

Alberta Agriculture will also provide assistance to bona fide farmers or ranchers wishing to rehabilitate existing dugouts. Financial assistance will be provided on the basis of one-half the eligible cost of restoring or improving existing dugouts up to a maximum of $1,000.

Projects must be completed by October 31, 1986.

Applications forms for the program are available at Alberta Agriculture district or regional offices, the PFRA and participating municipal district offices.

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Contact:

Bob Forrest
427-2181

March 31, 1986

For immediate release

Soils and animal nutrition laboratory

Effective April 1 "soils and animal nutrition laboratory" will be the new name of the agricultural soil and feed testing laboratory located in the O.S. Longman Building in Edmonton. A.W. Goettel, head of Alberta Agriculture's soils branch announced the new name in conjunction with a change in emphasis for the laboratory. "Nutritional diagnostic analyses services for field staff, calibration research of soil, plant and animal feed tests and the transfer of advanced technology to private sector laboratories will be major roles of the laboratory," says Mr. Goettel.

Laboratory analyses have become important tools to help farmers and their advisors identify and solve problems of crop and animal production. There are now five private laboratories in Alberta providing soil and feed testing services to farmers. They are capable of conducting a wide range of tests and offer rapid turnaround time. These laboratories are strategically located to provide local or province-wide service.

(Cont'd)

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Soils and animal nutrition laboratory (cont'd)

The soil and animal nutrition laboratory will play a major role in developing new and improved diagnostic methods that are calibrated to Alberta conditions. Calibration is necessary for effective interpretation and reliable recommendations based on laboratory analyses. This calibration work will be conducted in cooperation with research agencies in Alberta and in other prairie provinces. Development of standard procedures for testing and interpretation will be a major objective. Toward this objective the laboratory is currently revising and updating its soil test recommendations which will be available to private laboratories.

The soils and animal nutrition laboratory will continue to provide an alternative service for farmers and a problem-solving diagnostic service for department staff. Service for farm samples is expected to be slower than from private sector laboratories. Normal turnaround time for samples during peak spring and fall periods is expected to be three to four weeks.

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Contact:

Adolph Goettel
427-2530

March 31, 1986

For immediate release

Japanese impressed with Alberta beef

Prime rib, tenderloin, strip loin and rib eye -- these cuts of Alberta beef were the focus of a special tasting session held at Tokyo's prestigious Imperial Hotel, March 13. Presented as Alberta "healthy" beef, these cuts were also featured at FOODEX, the largest international food industry show in the region.

"Over 100 food industry leaders were given an exclusive tasting and judging by their expressions of satisfaction, they were suitably impressed," reports Dennis Glover, executive director with Alberta Agriculture's market development division.

"We knew there was great interest in our best quality barley-fed beef in Japan, but since there has always been only a limited supply available, very few Japanese food professionals were familiar with the taste and texture," says Mr. Glover. "Now, after sampling it at the Canadian FOODEX exhibit, many more Japanese know and appreciate the superior qualities of Alberta beef."

He expects these promotions to result in increased exports which will benefit Alberta ranchers and meat processors.

Accompanying Alberta Agriculture international trade staff to promote Alberta beef, were: David Stelfox, president, Centennial Packers, Calgary; Robert Porter, vice president and director of marketing, Premier Meat Ltd., Calgary; and representing Lucerne Foods, Donald Daintrey, executive director, Canada West Trading Company, Edmonton.

(Cont'd)

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Japanese impressed with Alberta "healthy" beef (cont'd)

Also present at FOODEX promoting sales of Alberta natural cheeses and other food products were representatives of: Alpha Dairies (cheese); Central Alberta Dairy Pool (cheese); York Farms, (frozen vegetables); McKenzie Foods (honey); King B Jerky (beef jerky); and Alsask Processors Co. Ltd., while Canada Packers represented Lethbridge Farm Products.

30

Contact:

Jackson Gardner
427-4241

March 31, 1986

For immediate release

Avoiding problems in young chickens and turkeys

Every spring Alberta Agriculture's poultry branch offices and veterinary diagnostic laboratories receive numerous telephone calls from small turkey and chicken flock owners who are having problems of one kind or another.

According to poultry specialist, Rod Chernos, in the majority of cases the problems are related to an incomplete understanding of the nutritional requirements of that specific species of birds. He says it is not uncommon for somebody who has both young broilers and turkeys to decide to use the cheaper broiler feed for both the broilers and the turkeys, with disastrous results to the latter. Young turkey poults require a 28 per cent protein, and will, undoubtedly, develop severe leg problems and a host of other nutritional diseases if they are fed a 23 per cent protein broiler ration.

Mr. Chernos recommends feeding broiler chicks a commercial broiler starter until they are three to four weeks old. After that they can be put on to a home mixed feed unless the owner wants to get them ready for slaughter in the shortest possible time. If this is the case, he will have to use a commercial feed all the way along and keep the birds confined.

(Cont'd)

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Avoiding problems in young chickens and turkeys (cont'd)

Leg weakness is the condition that develops most frequently when farmers feed only grain. It can be kept to a minimum, according to Mr. Chernos, by feeding a chick grower supplement with the grain. Then 10 to 14 days before the birds are to be slaughtered, switch to a finisher supplement. It will put a nice finish on the birds, Mr. Chernos says.

The same feeding program as mentioned above can be used for turkey poults except that the owner must be sure to use a turkey starter and turkey supplement instead of a broiler starter and a broiler supplement.

Mr. Chernos also stresses that pullets should never be fed a broiler ration because they will become too fat to lay properly; pullets that are too fat when they start laying are prone to prolapse and to cannibalism. There are specially formulated feeds for pullets that can be obtained from most feed mills.

Many small flock owners use peat moss as a litter for brooding chicks and poults. It is extremely important, says Mr. Chernos, that "poultry peat moss" be used -- not the ordinary garden type. Regular garden peat moss has not been sterilized to get rid of the mycotoxins which of course are very toxic to poultry. Severe early mortality can result if young birds ingest any of this mould-containing peat moss.

Anyone in doubt about the feeding program to follow should contact the local feed mill or local poultry specialist. If he has suffered abnormally high losses, he should contact one of Alberta Agriculture's four regional veterinary diagnostic laboratories.

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Contact:

Rod Chernos
948-5101

March 31, 1986

For immediate release

New district agriculturist at Coronation

Doug Cornell has been appointed district agriculturist at Alberta Agriculture's Coronation office. The appointment, which was effective March 11, 1986, was announced by Alan Hall, director for the north-central region.

Mr. Cornell will provide services to the County of Paintearth and Special Areas #4. A 1984 graduate of the University of Guelph, he majored in livestock production. After working one year as manager of a forage association in Manitoba, Mr. Cornell joined Alberta Agriculture as co-district agriculturist in Innisfail. It is from this position that he left to assume duties in Coronation.

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Contact:

Doug Cornell
578-3970

March 31, 1986

For immediate release

New district home economist at High Prairie

Virginia Merchant has been appointed district home economist at Alberta Agriculture's office at High Prairie. She will be replacing Louise Munn on a temporary basis.

A native of Saskatchewan, Mrs. Merchant was raised on a grain farm southeast of Regina. She attended the University of Saskatchewan where she graduated in 1976 with a B.Sc. in home economics majoring in clothing and textiles.

Mrs. Merchant worked as a district home economist at Falher from 1977 to 1979.

30

Contact:

Virginia Merchant
523-4561

March 31, 1986

For immediate release

Edson office has new district home economist

Rhonda Reid has been appointed district home economist at Alberta Agriculture's Edson office. The appointment which was effective March 17, 1986 was announced by Shirley Myers, head of the home economics branch.

Miss Reid graduated in 1980 with a bachelor's degree in home economics from the University of Manitoba.

Previously, Miss Reid worked as a home economist with the Department of Health in The Pas, Manitoba.

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Contact:

Rhonda Reid
723-8205

March 31, 1986

For immediate release

Regional dairy specialist appointed

Alan Hall, director of the north-central region for Alberta Agriculture has announced the appointment of David Gibson as regional dairy specialist. The appointment was effective February 1, 1986.

Mr. Gibson is a graduate of University of British Columbia where he majored in animal science. After working several years as a dairy nutritionist with Cargill, most of the time at Camrose, Mr. Gibson returned to the University of Alberta and completed his M.Sc. in dairy nutrition. He joins Alberta Agriculture to help provide dairy management and production expertise to the producers of central Alberta.

30

Contact:

David Gibson
340-5337

Correction: In Agri-News March 24, 1986, the article entitled, *Wet cattle need more feed*, should have read: 1:1 mineral . . . . . 2.5 ounces.

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Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Print Media Branch

AGRI-NEWS

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APR 30 1986

April 7, 1986

For immediate release

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Print Media Branch

April 7, 1986

For immediate release

Field rodent control

With the last of winter's snow and the arrival of spring weather, pocket gopher and ground squirrel activity will soon be evident on many farms. These rodents cause problems for farmers through their feeding and burrowing activities. Large numbers of them in a pasture compete with livestock for available forage. Dirt mounds, as a result of burrowing, smother vegetation, provide a seedbed for weeds and damage haying equipment.

Bob Acorn, Alberta Agriculture's problem wildlife supervisor at Barrhead, says that early spring, prior to "green-up", is the best time for landowners to effectively control these animals since field rodent numbers are normally at low levels. Less food is available to them, and they more readily accept poisoned grain baits at this time than they do later in the spring when fields turn green. Trapping is effective for pocket gophers at this time as they are very active in their burrows and dirt mounds are more conspicuous.

For more detailed information on the biology and control of pocket gophers and ground squirrels, obtain the publication, *Control of Pocket Gophers and Ground Squirrels*, Agdex 684-1, from Alberta Agriculture district offices or the Publications Office, 7000 113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6.

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Contact:

Bob Acorn
674-8256

Alberta
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Print Media Branch

Phone: (403) 427-2121

April 7, 1986

For immediate release

Use of ultralight aircraft for agricultural spraying is limited

There has been recent interest among farmers in the use of ultralight aircraft for agricultural spraying. However, according to Keith Price, head of Alberta Agriculture's crop protection branch, legally, this pesticide application method is seriously limited.

Ultralight aircraft cannot provide commercial crop spraying services because they do not qualify for commercial air service licenses under federal legislation (ultralights do not carry a certificate of air worthiness). There is an exemption to this, however, known as the "flying farmer exemption" which allows a farmer to perform commercial crop spraying applications within a 25 mile radius of his farm without having to obtain a commercial air service licence. To qualify for this exemption a farmer must formally apply to the Canadian Transport Commission and carry $1,000,000 public liability insurance. To date, ultralight aircraft are uninsurable for agricultural spraying and, therefore, a "flying farmer exemption" is not possible.

There are no laws to prevent a farmer from using an ultralight aircraft to spray pesticides on his own private property. He does not require a commercial air service licence because he is not providing a commercial service nor does he require a pesticide applicators licence because he is on his own private property. Therefore, ultralight applications carried out by a farmer on his own private property are legal provided the application is being carried out in a manner approved on the pesticide's product label.

(Cont'd)

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Use of ultralight aircraft for agricultural spraying is limited (cont'd)

Unfortunately, the water volumes normally required for agricultural spraying are impractical for applications with ultralight aircraft and chemicals are applied using low water volumes, compensating for coverage by using a very small droplet size. For the vast majority of agricultural pesticides, these "low volume" applications are not registered and applications using this method may result in reduced chemical efficacy, increased crop damage and increased pesticide drift.

To compensate for the enhanced evaporation of a smaller droplet, advocates of ultralight aircraft suggest switching the chemical carrier from water to oil. Again, there are very few agricultural pesticides that are legally registered with an oil carrier.

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Contact:

Keith Price
427-5330

April 7, 1986

For immediate release

Know what your bull costs

When asked what it costs them to breed their cows, most producers immediately think only in terms of how much they paid for their bull. But according to Brian Harris, a consultant to the Alberta Certified Preconditioned Feeder Program in Red Deer, although this is a large part of the cost of breeding cows, it is seldom the major cost in a commercial herd.

He says that the biggest costs are feeding the bull for the year, followed by the interest on the purchase price. Other costs include the difference between the purchase price of the bull less the resale value of the bull divided by the number of years he was used and the number of cows he was used on, and finally the number of cows which he got in calf.

(Cont'd)

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Know what your bull costs (cont'd)

Consider this comparison:

		A	B
Purchase price		$2000.00	1000.00
Resale value		$1000.00	900.00
Number of years used		3	3
Cost per year		333.00	33.00
Interest (14%)		280.00	140.00
Feed cost	- winter	200.00	200.00
	- pasture	90.00	90.00
Veterinarian		40.00 (semen check)	5.00
	TOTAL	$943.00	$468.00
Number of cows exposed		35.00	35.00
cost/cow exposed		26.95	13.37
Number of cows pregnant		32.00 (91%)	30.00 (86%)
cost/cow pregnant		29.47	15.60
Extra weight of calf required to equal cost - 18 lb			
Value lost on open cows			
- $100/cow		300.00	500.00
cost/cow pregnant		9.97	16.66
Actual cost		38.84	32.26
Extra weight of calf required is 8 lb			

(Cont'd)

Know what your bull costs (cont'd)

When you study the two examples and only look at the cost of keeping the bull, ($943 compared to $468) it would appear the cheaper bull is the better buy. But for the extra money, you should be getting a bull with more growth potential, better feet and legs, better semen qualities and better libido. This means more cows bred, more calves in season, less open cows in the fall and higher weaning weights on the calves. In the example you can see how a five per cent (91 vs 85) difference in pregnancy rate because of the bulls will affect the breeding cost, particularly if you charge the cost of the open cow against the bull, the result being you only need eight pounds more calf from the $2000 bull to equal the $1000 bull. This will come with improved calving intervals, i.e., less cows bred late in the season, which leaves any additional improvement in growth rate for profit.

30

Contact:

Brian Harris
340-5336

April 7, 1986

For immediate release

Reliable nutrition information sources are available

"It is virtually impossible for the average person without a nutrition background to successfully sort out the nutrition sense from all the nonsense that is around today," says Suzanne Tenold, Alberta Agriculture's regional home economist at Airdrie. "Often we lose economically more than we gain nutritionally because we don't take the time to ask qualified health professionals for guidelines before investing in nutrition books."

District home economists, registered dietitians and public health nutritionists are good sources of information and can offer suggestions for ways to determine accurate nutritional advice. They are familiar with reliable nutrition books and those which are best suited to answer specific questions.

Also, professional associations regularly publish journals or newsletters which are often available for non-members at a slightly higher fee than for members. A yearly subscription to these journals often costs less than buying other publications on the newsstand each month, says Ms. Tenold.

(Cont'd)

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Reliable nutrition information sources are available (Cont'd)

The *National Institute of Nutrition*, for example, is a highly respected Canadian source of current nutrition information and subscription rates are $20 for two years. Also, the Infant Nutrition Institute of Canada publishes a regular newsletter at no charge called *In-Touch*, which features current information and trends related to infant and child nutrition.

Knowledge of basic nutrition principles and sources of accurate nutrition information are the key to safe decisions for your food choices.

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Contact:

Suzanne Tenold
948-5101

April 7, 1986

For immediate release

ADC appoints financial analyst

James (Jim) Cooper has been appointed financial analyst with the Agricultural Development Corporation (ADC) in Camrose. The March 24 appointment was announced by Peter McNeil, manager, agribusiness lending.

A native of Ontario, Mr. Cooper worked with the Bank of Montreal at various Alberta locations from 1971 until 1975 when he joined the Bank of Nova Scotia. Most recently, he was senior assistant manager at the main branch in Lloydminster.

In his new position, Mr. Cooper's major areas of responsibility will include processing agribusiness loan applications and administering existing accounts. He will also provide advisory services to clients.

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Contact:

Jim Cooper
679-1364

Correction: In Agri-News March 3, 1986, the article entitled, *Rail and truck freight rate increases* should have read:

- Piggyback rates on meat and meat products were increased by four per cent on May 16, 1985.
- Rail rates on lumber and forest products were increased by five per cent on October 1, 1985.

The above rates did not increase by six per cent as stated in the article.

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Coming Agricultural Events

1986

Alberta Pork Producers Marketing Board Annual Meeting
Edmonton Inn
Edmonton, Alberta . . . . . April 16 - 17

Water Management Conference
Montebello, Quebec . . . . . May 27 - 30

Canada Agfest '86
Featuring 1986 Canadian Plowing Championships and
33rd World Plowing Match
Olds College
Olds, Alberta . . . . . May 29 - June 3
Bob McFadyen - 556-7569

Canadian Dietetic Association Annual Conference
Expand Your Horizons
Hotel Saskatchewan and Centre of the Arts
Regina, Saskatchewan. . . . . June 1 - 5

Drought-The Impending Crisis
Regina, Saskatchewan . . . . . June 3 - 6
K. Jones - (306) 780-6414

Agriculture Workshop for Lenders
Olds College
Olds, Alberta . . . . . June 8 - 13
Doug Barlund - 556-4245

Livestock Industry Institute
Seattle Sheraton Hotel & Towers
Seattle, Washington, U.S.A. . . . . June 18
Michael Sweet - (816) 531-2235

29th Conference of the Canadian Institute of Food Science Technology
Convention Centre
Calgary, Alberta . . . . . June 29 - July 2
Dr. Dave Schroder - 986-4793

6th International Farm Management Congress
(Managing Food Systems)
Minneapolis
Minnesota, U.S.A . . . . . June 29 - July 4

Breton Plots Field Day
Theme: Understanding Soil Tests
University of Alberta
Edmonton, Alberta . . . . . July 4
Doug Walkey - 542-5368

(Cont'd)

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Coming Agricultural Events (Cont'd)

"Age of Information"
Agriculture Institute of Canada, Annual Conference
University of Saskatchewan
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan ..... July 6 - 10
Jack Braidek - (306) 665-3519

International Feed Legume
Legume Research Conference
Spokane, Washington, U.S.A ..... July 6 - 11

World Charolais Federation Annual Meeting
Marlborough Inn
Calgary, Alberta ..... July 9 - 12
Joyce Stewart - (403) 276-9242

Canadian Seed Growers' Association Annual Meeting
Holiday Inn
Ottawa, Ontario ..... July 10 - 11
Joe Campbell - (613) 236-0497

American Society of Animal Science Annual Conference
Fresno, California ..... July 13 - 18

World Sheep and Wool Congress
Edmonton Northlands
Edmonton, Alberta ..... July 15 - 21
Bob Gary - 471-7364

The Society For Range Management Annual Range Tour
Stavely Range Station (12 miles west of Stavely, Alberta)
Bob Wroe - 423-4214 Edmonton Line ..... July 24 - 26
782-4641

3rd International Conference on Animal Genetics
University of Nebraska
Lincoln, Nebraska, U.S.A ..... July 17 - 22
Phone: (402) 472-3574

Canadian Galloway Association Annual Meeting
Brooks, Alberta ..... July 26
Mike Page - (403) 548-6622

Agriculture Canada Tillage-Soil Conservation Workshop
Regina, Saskatchewan ..... August 6
Judy Wilson - (306) 585-0255

(Cont'd)

Coming Agricultural Events (cont'd)

Agriculture Canada Centennial Field Day
Indian Head Experimental Farm
Indian Head, Saskatchewan . . . . . August 7
Judy Wilson - (306) 585-0255

Agtranspo '86
A conference on the distribution of agricultural products to Pacific Rim countries
The Westin Bayshore Hotel
Vancouver, British Columbia . . . . . September 2 - 4
Information - (613) 995-5880

Agritech Exhibition & Professional Agriculture Tours
Tel Aviv, Israel . . . . . September
Yaffa Dattner - (403) 228-3310

Alberta Irrigation Projects Association Annual Conference
Lethbridge Hotel
Lethbridge, Alberta . . . . . November 17
Diane Virostek - 654-4150

Annual Convention of the Christian Farmers Federation of Alberta
Nisku Inn
Nisku, Alberta
Ted Koopmans - 428-6981 . . . . . November 27

AL-1.691

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April 14, 1986

For immediate release

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Alberta
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April 14, 1986

For immediate release

Agriculture Hall of Fame nominations

LeRoy Fjordbotten, Alberta's minister of agriculture has announced that nominations are now being accepted for the Alberta Agriculture Hall of Fame to recognize Albertans who have made an outstanding contribution to agriculture and the rural community.

The deadline for the receipt of nominations is June 30, 1986. All nominations will be reviewed by a selection committee of farm men and women from throughout the province.

Any Albertan who displays devoted service to the development of agriculture at the local, provincial, national or international level may be eligible for entrance. Preference will be given to agricultural producers but agricultural business people, professional agrologists and rural community workers will also be considered. Nominees may have served the farming community as professionals or volunteers, but must be Canadian citizens. Selection criteria favor persons who have substantively completed their career. The candidate's personal and family's citizenship role in the local community and community at large are also valued features for consideration.

(Cont'd)

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Agriculture Hall of Fame nominations (cont'd)

LeRoy Fjordbotten says that being inducted into the Hall of Fame is the greatest honor Alberta Agriculture can bestow upon an individual.

Individuals considered for induction into the Hall of Fame will be honored at a banquet and ceremony in March, 1987. This event traditionally coincides with Agriculture Week. Portraits and histories of the inductees for 1986 will be added to the Agriculture Hall of Fame display on the main floor of Alberta Agriculture's J.G. O'Donoghue Building in Edmonton. The Hall of Fame, which was established in 1951, now has 68 members.

Nomination forms for the Agriculture Hall of Fame are available through Alberta Agriculture's district offices or by writing to: Alberta Agriculture Hall of Fame, J.G. O'Donoghue Building, 7000 - 113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta T6H 5T6.

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Contact: Gabe Boulet
427-2403

April 14, 1986

For immediate release

How to increase alfalfa productivity

Alfalfa is one of the most productive and profitable crops in Alberta. Here, from Myron Bjorge with Alberta Agriculture's field crops branch, are 10 production tips that will increase productivity per acre from this valuable crop.

1. Plant certified seed of an appropriate variety. Flemish (i.e. early) types are the most productive in irrigated areas as well as favorable sites on Black and Grey Wooded soil zones where shorter rotations but maximum yield and quality per acre are desired.

2. Plant enough alfalfa to establish a full stand. A seeding rate of 10 lb/ac on irrigated land, 8 lb/ac on Black and Grey Wooded soils and 4 to 5 lb/ac on Brown soils is recommended.

3. Viable alfalfa inoculant should be stuck onto seed as near to seeding time as is practical.

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How to increase alfalfa productivity (cont'd)

4. Alfalfa must be planted at a shallow depth (1/4 inch to 1/2 inch) into a very firm seed bed. A minimum amount of shallow cultivation should be used to decrease soil moisture loss and help maintain a firm seed bed. Soil should be firm enough that a man's footprints are approximately 1/8 inch deep. An exception to the rule of making a fine and firm seed bed is that soils subject to crusting should be left cloddy.

5. Since surface applied phosphorus fertilizer moves into soil very slowly there is usually a lag time between application and when it is fully available to the alfalfa. Incorporating a two year or greater supply into the soil on the establishment year reduces the effects of the lag time.

6. Alfalfa does best when seeded alone. If planted in early spring it should be productive on the year of seeding. On irrigated land at least one and probably two hay cuttings are possible. On Black and Grey Wooded soils one cutting is produced provided the alfalfa gets off to a good start. For best results broadleaved weeds, grassy weeds and volunteer cereals should be controlled.

7. Seed a portion of the total alfalfa each year to protect against the hazards of winterkill. Seedling stands rarely winterkill and second year stands are more hardy than older stands.

(Cont'd)

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How to increase alfalfa productivity (cont'd)

8. In irrigated areas soil moisture should be maintained at 75 per cent of field capacity or more. Alfalfa is a high user of water and productivity drops off if moisture supplies are not adequate.

9. Alfalfa has traditionally been grown in a mixture with smooth bromegrass to protect against the effects of alfalfa winterkill. However, the smooth bromegrass further weakens the alfalfa because it is very competitive. The alfalfa component will contribute more yield to the mixture if:

   a) The grass seeding rate is decreased. For example a mixture of 1 or 2 lb/ac of bromegrass plus 6 to 8 lb/ac of alfalfa will increase alfalfa longevity compared to a mixture with 4 lb/ac of each ingredient.

   b) Use less competitive grasses. Bunch grasses such as timothy, orchardgrass or crested wheatgrass are ideal. Meadow bromegrass and intermediate wheatgrass do creep some but are less competitive than smooth bromegrass.

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How to increase alfalfa productivity (cont'd)

10. Cut alfalfa for hay when 10 per cent of the plants show first bloom, or earlier, for high quality feed. Don't harvest during August in north and central Alberta on a two-cut system or during September in southern Alberta on a three-cut system.

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Contact: Myron Bjorge
782-4214
423-4214

April 14, 1986

For immediate release

4-H highway cleanup May 3

An army of 8500 young people will hit the ditches May 3 in an all out war on litter. Alberta 4-H members and junior forest wardens plan to clean over 4500 miles of highway ditches in one day. In case of bad weather, the cleanup will take place on the following Saturday. The annual event, now in its tenth year, is a sure sign to Albertans that summer is on its way.

(cont'd)

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4-H highway cleanup May 3 (cont'd)

"Last year the young people collected over 57,000 bags of garbage," explains Elizabeth Webster, provincial 4-H personal development specialist. "The benefit to the community is tremendous -- most people appreciate the effort." Each club may contract to clean up to 10 miles of highway.

Safety is a major concern to the organizers and participants. 4-H members will wear bright orange vests, carry orange garbage bags and their vehicles will be marked clearly with orange triangular signs. As well, radio messages will remind motorists to slow down when entering a cleanup area.

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Contact: Elizabeth Webster
427-2541

April 14, 1986

For immediate release

Forage crop mixtures for improved drought tolerance

With spring and early summer droughts being especially common in recent years, many farmers are looking for ways to protect themselves from the effects of drought.

According to Myron Bjorge with Alberta Agriculture's field crops branch in Lacombe, the choice of perennial forage crops is important since drought tolerance varies considerably from crop to crop. The dryland grasses -- crested wheatgrass, Russian wild-rye, and Altai wild-rye -- are very drought tolerant and are well adapted to Dark Brown and Brown soils. Crested wheatgrass also does well on drier sites in Black soils and is often a better choice than smooth bromegrass since it tolerates dry weather much better. Pubescent and intermediate wheatgrass are less drought tolerant than crested wheatgrass, but more drought tolerant than bromegrass making them good choices too, especially for Dark Brown soils.

Dryland grasses do not do well on most Grey Wooded soils or moister parts of the Black Soil zone. In these areas smooth and meadow bromegrass are good choices to improve drought tolerance.

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(Cont'd)

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Forage crop mixtures for improved drought tolerance (cont'd)

Grasses which regrow well are very productive late in the growing season provided late rainfall occurs. Listed in order of overall drought tolerance this includes Russian wild-rye, Altai wild-rye, meadow bromegrass, creeping red fescue, orchardgrass, and meadow foxtail.

The legume component is also a very important factor relating to drought tolerance of perennial forage mixtures in all areas of Alberta. "Including up to 50 per cent legume in pastures and at least 50 per cent and up to 100 per cent legume for hay production would improve drought tolerance in Black and Grey Wooded soils," says Mr. Bjorge.

All of the legumes have good regrowth potential. Of the legumes, alfalfa has the greatest potential and has drought tolerance exceeded only by sainfoin. Alfalfa is adapted to all soil zones of Alberta.

For more information obtain the publications, Varieties of Perennial Hay and Pasture Crops for Alberta 1986, Agdex FS 120/32 and the Alberta Forage Manual, Agdex 120/20-4 from the Publications Office, 7000 - 113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6 or from Alberta Agriculture district offices.

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Contact: Myron Bjorge
782-4641
423-4214

April 14, 1986

For immediate release

Alternative methods for grasshopper control

Outbreaks of grasshoppers during the last few years have generated considerable interest in new control methods. Grasshoppers can be difficult to control, and there are economic and environmental problems associated with the spraying of toxic chemicals.

Research on some alternative methods for controlling grasshoppers is a continuing program at the Lethbridge Research Station in projects supported in part by a Farming for the Future grant. These alternatives could reduce the amount of chemicals sprayed and decrease the risk involved in their applications, says Dr. D.L. Johnson, an insect ecologist with the research station.

Two promising possibilities involve the use of either natural enemies or improved insecticide bait.

" Grasshoppers are native to the prairies and their natural enemies are crickets, maggots, nematodes, parasitic wasps, and birds," says Dr. Johnson. " However, the most effective natural control has been disease and we are directing our studies to harnessing microbes as allies."

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Alternative methods for grasshopper control (cont'd)

Grasshoppers have numerous internal microorganisms, but only a few cause diseases. These diseases occur naturally at low levels and affect only grasshoppers. Nosema locustae is a microscopic parasite that debilitates grasshoppers, causing lethargy and slow death. It is spread by cannibalism, which is common among grasshoppers. Studies at the Lethbridge Research Station since 1983 confirm that, because of its slow action, the best use of this parasite would be on rangeland. It has been observed that Nosema-infected grasshoppers reduce their feeding to about half and there is also evidence that egg-laying is reduced.

Another disease is caused by the fungus Entomophthora grylli. Spores overwinter in the soil. Under moist conditions, the fungus will infect grashoppers and kill them within two weeks. In dry years during grasshopper outbreaks, spores of this pathogen are rare.

Problems with these pathogens are that they are slow-acting and, in the case of E. grylli, dependent on the right weather conditions. "Although the use of these pathogens may reduce our dependency on wide-spectrum insecticides in the future, biological control methods will not be useful for the situation requiring immediate control," says Dr. Johnson.

An alternative control method requiring less research and development is grasshopper bait. Poisoned bait is an old method of chemical application that has been improved. Because this method uses less chemical, the level of environmental risk in sensitive ecosystems is reduced.

(Cont'd)

Alternative methods for grasshopper control (cont'd)

Modern baits consist of small quantities of insecticide on wheat bran. Baits deliver the active ingredient directly to grasshoppers when they feed on the particles. Other wildlife and natural enemies are unaffected since there is no spray drift and the bran particles are widely dispersed. Since this method is more precise in directing the insecticide to the grasshoppers, less chemical is required. For example, in 1985 it was found that carbaryl, a common insecticide, could provide adequate grasshopper control at one-fifth the normal rate when mixed with bran.

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Contact: Dr. D.L. Johnson
327-4561

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April 14, 1986

For immediate release

Productivity of peat soils

"Productivity of peat soils" will be the focus of an information meeting sponsored by the North West Peat Soils Association. The meeting is scheduled for April 15, 1986 from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Linaria Community Hall.

The keynote speaker will be Dr. Jim Campbell from Nova, an Alberta Corporation. Dr. Campbell previously spent a number of years doing research work with Agriculture Canada on organic soils.

The On Farm Demonstration Projects, Evaluation of Deep Plowing to Restructure Peat Soils and Crop Response to Nitrogen, will be discussed at the meeting. In addition, the new research program with Alberta Agriculture's soils branch on fertility levels for peat soils will be featured.

Those interested will be able to purchase association memberships at the meeting.

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Productivity of peat soils (cont'd)

For more information contact the district offices at Barrhead (674-8213) or Westlock (349-4465).

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Contact: Bill Chapman
674-8258

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April 14, 1986

For immediate release

District agriculturist appointed at Spirit River

Kathleen Holder has been appointed district agriculturist at Spirit River. She will be working with Roger Andreiuk, the present district agriculturist. The appointment was announced by Don Young, Alberta Agriculture director for the Peace region.

Ms. Holder graduated from the University of Guelph in 1983 where she majored in animal science. After training at Lloydminster, she worked as a district agriculturist at Wainwright and Provost.

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Contact: Kathleen Holder
864-3597

Coming Agricultural Events corrections/additions

Animal Air Transportation Association
12th International Conference
Skyland Hotel, Ottawa.....April 28 - May 1
Dr. Harry Rowsell - (613) 238-4031

Drought - The Impending Crisis
University of Regina
Regina, Saskatchewan.....June 3-6
K. Jones - (306) 780-6413

International Feed Legume
Research Conference
Spokane, Washington
Dr. R.H. Lockerman, Montana State University
Boseman, Montana
59717, U.S.A. .....July 6-11

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April 21, 1986

For immediate release

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April 21, 1986

For immediate release

4-H Foundation Scholarship Fund announced

Barry McDonald (left) presents first scholarship donation received to Ed Ness, 4-H Foundation chairman.

The 4-H Foundation and 4-H branch of Alberta Agriculture have announced the establishment of a province-wide scholarship fund. Barry McDonald, scholarship committee chairman, presented the first donation received to Ed Ness, Foundation chairman. "This first donation was

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made in memory of a special 4-H'er", Mr. McDonald explained. "We expect that many contributions for scholarships will arrive in the form of memorials or to mark special events such as the upcoming 70th anniversary of 4-H in Alberta," he noted. "We believe that a scholarship fund will enable and encourage 4-H'ers to continue their learning beyond their 4-H years".

A scholarship of $500 will be awarded in 1986. The recipient will be selected on the basis of achievement in 4-H, community involvement and academic performance. Administration will be shared by the Foundation and the 4-H branch of Alberta Agriculture. Donations are tax deductible. Any friend of 4-H may contribute to the new fund.

The 4-H branch administers over 30 scholarships for past 4-H members. If you would like more information on these scholarships or the scholarship fund, please contact your regional 4-H specialist, district home economist, or write to: 4-H Scholarship Program, Alberta Agriculture, 7000 - 113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6.

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Contact: Elizabeth Webster
427-2541

April 21, 1986

For immediate release

How to handle farm employment records and forms

Farmers who battle with the maze of paperwork involved in hiring employees, will be interested to know that Alberta Agriculture, in co-operation with the chartered accountant firm, Deloitte Haskins & Sells, have released a new publication entitled "Farm Employment Records and Forms".

Merle Good, Alberta Agriculture farm management economist, says that more farmers each year are asking how they should go about hiring an employee and if they can handle the paperwork. " This publication is really a step-by-step guide that will explain the procedures to follow and illustrate by a case scenario, the necessary forms to complete," he says. "With this publication, the paper jungle associated with hiring employees should become a thing of the past."

The areas covered in the publication are best illustrated by excerpts from the material relating to the following questions.

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How to handle farm employment records and forms (cont'd)

1. Can a worker be hired under a contract rather than an employee and thus save some paper work?

"In many farm operations, workers are paid as though they were contract laborers, that is, no payroll records are kept and no deductions are made and submitted to Revenue Canada on their behalf. In many cases, the workers are truly employees and therefore the contract treatment is improper.

Revenue Canada's definition says that "an employer-employee relationship exists where the person paying for the services has the right to control and direct the person performing the services", both as to the results required and the means of achieving the required results."

2. What amount can I pay my family members as wages and obtain a tax deduction?

"Wage levels for jobs held by family members must be reasonable for the type of work performed. The best measurement is what you would be willing to pay someone else to do the same job. It is very difficult to justify to Revenue Canada's auditors that your 14-year-old son's harvesting assistance is really worth $12,000. However, if that 14-year-old does chores every night, hauls grain through harvest, such a salary could be justified."

(Cont'd)

How to handle farm employment records and forms (cont'd)

3. Is there any legislation protecting farmers from personal liability suits if an employee is hurt while on the job?

"The Workers' Compensation Act provides a compensation scheme for employees who are injured, disabled, or killed on the job. Under this act, employers are assessed a premium based on the industry and on the forecast of payroll for the year. If any employee is injured on the job, the act provides for compensation to the injured employee while he/she is off work because of the injury. It also provides medical care and rehabilitation."

4. For once, I would like to have a completed step-by-step guide explaining the payroll process. Does the publication offer this type of explanation? "Yes -- Sample Payroll and Forms. To illustrate the payroll process, Appendix A contains an example of a payroll, showing all of the forms normally used for the farm payroll and how to complete them."

5. Are there any government programs which are designed to help farmers employ individuals?

Here are some of the programs explained in the publication:

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How to handle farm employment records and forms (cont'd)

A. CANADA EMPLOYMENT CENTRE PROGRAMS

a) Skill investment

b) Job entry

c) Job development

d) Skill shortages

e) Hiring foreign workers

B. PROVINCIALLY FUNDED PROGRAMS

a) Alberta Youth Employment and Training Program

b) Alberta Wage Subsidy Program

c) Summer Temporary Employment Program (S.T.E.P.)

d) Alberta Training Program (A.T.P.)

Copies of "Farm Employment Records and Forms", are available from Alberta Agriculture district offices, the farm business managment branch in Olds, and the Publications Office, 7000-113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6.

Contact: Merle Good
556-4237

April 21, 1986

For immediate release

Stripe rust of soft white spring wheat

According to officials at the Lethbridge Research Station, stripe rust is one of the most serious diseases threatening the production of soft white spring wheat in western Canada.

In 1981, a major outbreak of this fungal disease caused estimated yield losses of up to 40 per cent in certain areas of southern Alberta. Crop yields are reduced because nutrients are diverted from the wheat plant to the fungus. Stripe rust also increases moisture loss from infected plants which can result in premature defoliation. In addition to yield losses, grain from heavily infected fields is often downgraded because of shrivelled kernels.

Research at the Lethbridge Research Station, funded in part by Farming for the Future, is aimed at developing new soft white spring wheat cultivars with stripe rust resistance. Resistant cultivars are the most effective control for rust. Owens is presently the only licensed cultivar that is resistant to the current races of stripe rust. Numerous potential sources of resistance are being evaluated for resistance at different field locations and under controlled environmental conditions.

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Stripe rust of soft white spring wheat (cont'd)

Infection by the stripe rust fungus results in the formation of yellow pustules on the leaves, leaf sheaths and heads of wheat. The elongated pustules develop between the veins of the leaves and often run the entire length of the leaf. Under favorable conditions, sporulation occurs approximately 12 to 14 days after initial infection. The spores are carried by the wind to infect other plants in the vicinity or in distant locations.

Winter conditions in southern Alberta are too cold for survival of the rust but it can overwinter on winter wheat and native grasses in the Pacific Northwest of the United States. Early in the growing season, the disease is reintroduced into Alberta by air-borne spores blown in from the overwintering areas. The rust spores appear earlier in Alberta following a mild winter in the Pacific Northwest because milder temperatures allow the buldup of the rust on winter wheat. This disease requires wet, cool conditions for infection and sporulation. The hot, dry conditions that usually prevail during the growing season in southern Alberta are mainly responsible for preventing serious outbreaks of stripe rust. Generally, stripe rust is only a problem in fields that receive irrigation or frequent showers during periods when night temperatures go below 15°C.

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Stripe rust of soft white spring wheat (cont'd)

The use of foliar and seed treatment fungicides to control stripe rust is also being evaluated. At present, no fungicides are registered in Canada for the control of stripe rust. However, several unregistered fungicides have been shown to provide good control of this disease. When stripe rust is severe, yield increases of between 35 and 40 per cent have been obtained by controlling rust with some of these fungicides.

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Contact: Dr. R.L. Conner
Dr. R.S. Sadasivaiah
327-4561

April 21, 1986

For immediate release

"Salt Woes" - a new Alberta Agriculture film

Just as too much salt in a person's diet causes health problems, too much salt in a farmer's land causes problems by reducing its productivity.

"Millions of acres of dryland on the prairies now lie tainted or barren as a result of salinization," says Hank Vander Pluym with Alberta Agriculture's conservation and development branch. The problem continues to grow, perplexing those who try to control it.

Salt Woes, a new Alberta Agriculture film, explains the problem and its causes. It draws attention to the complexity of the phenomenon and the unique properties of saline seeps, demonstrating the need for detailed investigation. It shows up-to-date equipment and methods used to delineate seep areas. It also strongly discourages the indiscriminate use of summerfallow.

Much of the film centres on controlling the problem: how to reclaim affected land, and especially, how to prevent it from becoming worse. It shows how certain crops can be used to reclaim the soil by utilizing deep subsoil moisture. It shows how a farmer can develop a plan to overcome his salinity problems and possibly grow cash crops.

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"Salt Woes" - a new Alberta Agriculture film (cont'd)

Besides vegetative controls, the film shows why it is important to drain upslope areas, and how subsurface drainage can be used to reclaim the soil. It reinforces many of the good management practices presented in previous films such as "A Matter of Soil."

Salt Woes is the fourth film in a series dealing with issues in soil conservation. The film is available on a free-loan basis from Alberta Agriculture, 7000 - 113 St., Edmonton, Alta., T6H 5T6.

Purchase information is available from Doug Pettit, head of the broadcast media branch, Alberta Agriculture. Telephone: (403) 427-2127.

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Contact: John Hermans
427-4385

April 21, 1986

For immediate release

Soil sampling procedures

With the agricultural economy as it is, now may be a good time to take a look at your fertilizer program and consider soil testing.

"Soil tests will give you a measurement of the fertility present in your soil so that you can more accurately decide on how much fertilizer to add and control your costs to a greater degree," says Peter Funk, district agriculturist at Red Deer. The turnaround time with private laboratories is about five days so there is still time to send a sample in before spring seeding.

Soil Sampling Procedures:

Size up each field before sampling by observing variations in yield and crop growth, soil texture and color, slope, degree of erosion, drainage and past treatment.

Avoid unusual areas such as: dead or back furrows, old straw, hay or manure piles, waterways, saline spots, eroded knolls and old fence rows. Separate samples should be taken from sizable areas where growth is significantly different from the rest of the field.

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Soil sampling procedures (cont'd)

Sample 15 to 20 places at random within the field or a uniform part of it in order to obtain a composite soil sample which is representative of the whole area to be tested.

Each field (with the same crop and management history) must be sampled separately. Fields larger than 60 to 70 acres may need to be divided into smaller sampling units, depending on soil and crop variability.

Time and care spend in sampling each field will ensure that you get the most benefit from your soil testing program. Poor sampling procedure such as taking one or two handfuls of soil from a field will result in misleading soil test results.

Take soil cores from 0 to 15 cm (0 to 6 inches) at each of the 15 to 20 places within a field. For improved nitrogen evaluation or where problem soils are encountered, separate samples should be taken from the 0 to 15, 15 to 30 and 30 to 60 cm depths at 15 to 20 sites.

Place cores in clean pails or bags, then mix cores taken from the same depths, crushing lumps in the process.

Keep samples taken from different depths separate from one another.

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Soil sampling procedures (cont'd)

Fill out information sheet:

- provide complete information for each soil sample on the information sheet supplied
- where unusual problems exist, these should be explained in detail
- keep a duplicate copy of the information sheet and field notes for your records

Fees are $15 per sample (cheques made payable to the Provincial Treasurer) or $17 per sample for private laboratories.

Soil tests will provide the following information: nitrogen content, phosphorus content, potassium content, pH, salt content, sulphur content, sodium content, texture and free lime rating.

For further information contact the Soils and Animal Nutrition Laboratory, 6th Floor, O.S. Longman Building, 6909 - 116 Street, Edmonton, T6H 4P2, telephone 436-9150.

Contact: Peter Funk
340-5364

Phone: (403) 427-2121

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April 21, 1986

For immediate release

Edmonton area food processors receive nutritive processing assistance

Two rural food processing firms have received assistance totalling $113,317 to establish and upgrade facilities near Edmonton.

The assistance was announced by federal Industry Minister Sinclair Stevens and LeRoy Fjordbotten, Alberta's minister of agriculture. The assistance was made possible under the Nutritive Processing Assistance Agreement.

Barrhead Professional Building Ltd. has used an offer of $75,072 to establish a new facility east of Barrhead. The plant built at a cost in excess of $270,000 processes wheat, oats and barley into flours, pancake and muffin mixes, and cereals. A total of three jobs resulted from the project.

A meat processor in Stony Plain has upgraded an existing facility using an offer of $38,245 in assistance. Parkland Packers (1976) Ltd. has built a 4,000-square-foot processing addition to the existing operation. The expansion cost approximately $191,000 and has resulted in the creation of six jobs.

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Edmonton area food processors receive nutritive processing assistance (cont'd)

The Nutritive Processing Assistance Agreement is jointly administered and equally funded by the federal Department of Regional Industrial Expansion (DRIE) and Alberta Agriculture.

Contact: Dr. J.E. Wiebe
427-4287

April 21, 1986

For immediate release

Alberta food processors get financial boost

A federal-provincial agreement has given a financial boost to rural Alberta food processors. Over $759,000 in assistance has been offered to meat processors, feed mills, bakeries and dairy operations. The 13 companies will invest over $3.7 million to establish new facilities or expand/modernize existing operations.

The financial assistance was announced by federal Industry Minister Sinclair Stevens and LeRoy Fjordbotten, Alberta's minister of agriculture. The funds were made available under the Nutritive Processing Assistance Agreement.

The following firms have accepted offers of assistance under the Agreement:

- Ellison Milling Company - Division of Parrish & Heimbecker Limited will use $200,300 to modernize an existing flour and feed mill in Lethbridge. The cost of upgrading the facility is estimated at $1 million.

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Alberta food processors get financial boost (cont'd)

- Premiermix Feeds Ltd. and Bekol Investments Ltd. will receive $168,646 to defray the costs of their new feed mill in Lethbridge. The $843,000 facility will manufacture livestock premixes. The new plant is expected to create seven jobs.
- An alfalfa pelleting plant in Falher will be modernized using assistance totalling $106,634. Falher Alfalfa Ltd. will use the funding to improve the efficiency of the facility. The project will cost approximately $533,000 and is expected to create six jobs.
- High Arctic Marketing Corporation Ltd. will use an offer of assistance totalling $84,842 to establish a seafood processing plant in Wetaskiwin. The new $424,000 facility will market over 50 varieties of frozen seafood. It is anticipated the plant will create four positions for local residents.
- Colborn-Dawes Canada Limited has built a feed mill at High River, using $66,073 in assistance. The $330,000 facility processes micro premix and distributes animal vitamins. Six jobs are expected to be created.
- Great Northern Grain Terminals Ltd. will build a grain mill in Nampa using assistance totalling $47,604. The facility will clean grain and oilseeds for human and animal consumption. Establishment of this facility, at a cost of $216,000, will create three positions for local residents.

(Cont'd)

Alberta food processors get financial boost (cont'd)

- Northern Alberta Diary Pool Ltd., in Grande Prairie, will expand and modernize its existing ice cream storage facility with an offer of assistance totalling $9,207. The cost of the project is estimated at $46,000 and two jobs are expected to result.
- Garry and Joan Klassen will build a bakery in Lethbridge with the help of a $14,418 offer of assistance. Klassy's Bakery and Delicatessen is expected to employ four persons and cost approximately $63,000.
- Feed-Rite Alberta Ltd. has accepted an offer of $7,000 to modify its feed mill in Linden at an estimated cost of $35,000.
- Niels Eskesen will use financial assistance totalling $7,086 to upgrade his livestock feed processing operation. The expansion/ modernization of Sundre Feed and Farm Supplies, located in Sundre, is expected to create two jobs and cost over $35,000.
- Champion Feed Services Ltd., located in Westlock, has accepted an offer of assistance totalling $18,780. The firm will expand and modernize its feed mill at a cost of almost $94,000.
- The Shur Gain Division of Canada Packers Inc. will use financial assistance totalling $11,811 to modernize its feed manufacturing facility. The firm will purchase and install power intake controls, and replace the grinders in its Medicine Hat plant. Total cost of the project is estimated at $59,000.

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Alberta food processors get financial boost (cont'd)

- Allan and Judith Brayer have established a new sausage processing facility using $17,315 in offered assistance. Operating as King Kuby Sausage, they have invested over $59,000 in the Ferintosh facility. Two new jobs are expected to result from the project.

The Nutritive Processing Assistance Agreement provides financial assistance to food processing operations in rural Alberta. It is jointly administered and equally funded by the federal Department of Regional Industrial Expansion (DRIE) and Alberta Agriculture. Since the agreement was first signed in 1975, over $31 million has gone to Alberta operations.

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AGRI-NEWS

MAY 12 1986

April 28, 1986

For immediate release

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April 28, 1986

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Alberta feedmills and meat processors receive federal-provincial assistance

Seven rural Alberta firms have received offers of financial assistance totalling $745,660 to establish new operations or expand/modernize existing facilities.

The funding was announced by federal Industry Minister Sinclair Stevens and LeRoy Fjordbotten, Alberta's Minister of Agriculture.

The following firms have received the offers of assistance, provided under the Canada-Alberta Nutritive Processing Agreement:

- Gole & Sons Producers Ltd. of Didsbury, has received an offer of $315,240 to expand and modernize its feedmill. The firm has built an addition with the capability of producing steam-rolled complete feeds.

  The project is expected to cost $1.5 million and create five jobs.

- Quality Feeds (Alberta) Ltd. has accepted two offers of assistance, totalling $253,638, to expand and modernize a feedmill in Lacombe. The assistance has facilitated the computerization of the processing line and the purchase of additional processing equipment. Total cost of the modernization/expansion is estimated at $1.3 million.

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- Innisfail Meat Processors Ltd. has expanded and modernized its abattoir in Innisfail. Assistance offered in the amount of $66,270, has enabled the firm to purchase new equipment and renovate the existing building. Estimated to cost over $300,000, the modernization/expansion has created four jobs.
- Rockyford Meat Processors (1984) Ltd., located in Rockyford, has used an offer in the amount of $38,337 to establish an abattoir. The facility cost $128,000 and provides retail service to the market between Calgary and Brooks. Four jobs were created as a result of the project.
- Bouma Meats Ltd., using an offer totalling $22,529, has built an addition to an existing abattoir in Provost. The 1,500-square-foot facility cost almost $113,000 and has created two new positions.
- Falls Feeds Ltd., located in Forstburg, has used an offer of $29,484 to upgrade an existing feedmill. The assistance has allowed the firm to install a new mixing line and storage system to handle bulk salt, phosphate and limestone. Total cost of the project is approximately $147,420.
- United Grain Growers Ltd. - United Feeds Division, has used funding totalling $20,160 to install a new roller mill and sprinkler system in its feedmill. The modernization of the Camrose facility cost $112,000.

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Alberta feedmills and meat processors receive federal-provincial assistance (cont'd

The Nutritive Processing Assistance Agreement is jointly administered and equally funded by the federal Department of Regional Industrial Expansion (DRIE) and Alberta Agriculture.

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Southern Alberta firms benefit from federal-provincial program

Three companies have received $497,060 under a federal-provincial program for rural food processors. The projects mean an investment of $2.8 million by the firms in their southern Alberta operations.

The assistance was announced by federal Industry Minister Sinclair Stevens and LeRoy Fjordbotten, Alberta's minister of agriculture. The funding was provided under the Nutritive Processing Assistance Agreement.

The following firms have accepted assistance under the program:

- A new $2.5-million cheese processing plant has been built by Central Alberta Dairy Pool. The facility, located in Medicine Hat, has been awarded $432,157. The facility produces European specialty cheeses.

- Bassano Growers Co-op Ltd., has received an offer of assistance totalling $20,103 to modernize and expand its facility in Bassano. The assistance is being used to purchase and install processing and storage equipment at its vegetable processing plant. The project is expected to cost over $100,000.

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Southern Alberta firms benefit from federal-provincial program (cont'd)

- Canada Packers Inc. - York Farms Division, will upgrade its processing plant in Lethbridge. A total of $44,800 will go towards the installation of equipment to provide inspection and defect removal of processed french fries. The project will cost approximately $224,000.

The Nutritive Processing Assistant Agreement is jointly administered and equally funded by the federal Department of Regional Industrial Expansion (DRIE) and Alberta Agriculture.

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April 28, 1986

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Alberta farm weather line

Alberta Agriculture and Atmospheric Environment Service will be providing telephone access to the special agricultural forecasts for producers during the 1986 growing season.

"The response to last year's program was very encouraging and we are pleased to be able to make it available again in 1986," says Dena Lewis, weather resource specialist with Alberta Agriculture.

Four lines have been installed in Grande Prairie (539-7654), Edmonton (468-9196), Calgary (295-1003), and Lethbridge (328-RAIN). The lines are not toll-free and the user will be billed the normal long-distance charge if the call is placed from outside the local calling area of the four centres.

Forecasts, specific to the region, will be updated at 4:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 4:30 p.m., and 9:30 p.m. The service will be available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, beginning May 1 and running through October.

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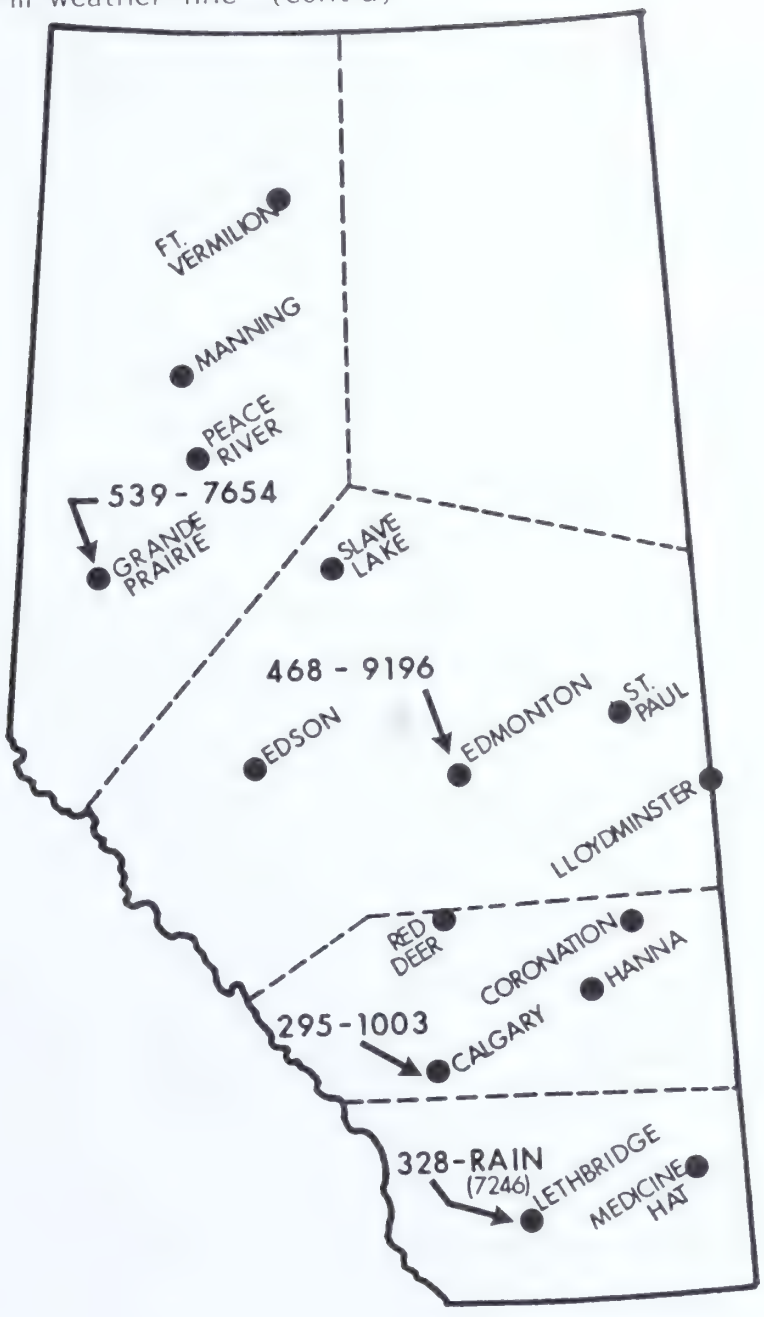
Alberta farm weather line (cont'd)



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April 28, 1986

For immediate release

Ensuring quality in swine feeds mixed on-farm

Feed accounts for 60 to 75 per cent of the cost of raising a hog to market weight. According to Sam Jaikaran, Alberta Agriculture's monogastric nutritionist, small improvements in feed quality can return large dividends in feed efficiency and feed cost per market hog raised. "Laboratory analyses of swine feeds prepared on-farm have demonstrated numerous nutrient excesses or deficiencies," explains Mr. Jaikaran. "Excessive amounts of protein are wasteful and represent needless expenses, while shortages of protein lead to lower weight gains and poorer feed efficiency which also represents a potential loss of profits."

To ensure that feed prepared on-farm meets the quality required by the pigs being fed, seven steps must be followed.

1. Determine the class of pigs to be fed, e.g. weaners, growers, finishers nurse sows or pregnant sows.
2. Determine the nutrient allowances for that class of pigs and the specifications of the feed to be prepared, e.g. per cent protein, per cent calcium and per cent phosphorus content.
3. Determine the feed ingredients that will be used considering palatability, spoilage, availability, nutrient content, cost and alternatives.

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Ensuring quality in swine feeds mixed on farm (cont'd)

4. Obtain guaranteed analyses for premixes, supplements and protein ingredients, and laboratory analyses for farm grown feeds like grain, peas etc.
5. Calculate the feed formulas using analyses of the ingredients.
6. Check mill calibration and recalibrate when different ingredients are to be used or when new batches of ingredients are obtained.
7. Sample and analyse the prepared feeds regularly.

Feed analyses on prepared feeds are done mainly for determining if the milling equipment is producing the mixture it was calibrated for. Differences between calculated analyses and actual laboratory analyses indicate either errors in formulation or errors in mill calibration. Both of these can be easily checked. However, all this is based on the assumption that the sample of feed analysed was a perfect representation of the feed being made. Improper sampling techniques will give rise to samples that are not representative of the feed being made and as such the analysis results obtained are useless and should not be used as an indicator of feed mill accuracy.

Mr. Jaikaran says that the most reliable feed sample is obtained at a point closest to the discharge of the mill. In the case of electric mix mills, allow them to run for about two to three minutes then collect about 10 samples close to the discharge. For grinder mixers, take about 10 samples of the prepared feed from the auger during unloading.

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Ensuring quality in swine feeds mixed on farm (cont'd)

Mix samples together thoroughly, then take a 500 gram sample from the mixture for analysis. Note that samples of feed taken at the bin without a probe, or those taken from the feeder, may have been affected by separation during movement from the mill to that point. Analysis results from these samples only serve to indicate if feed separation occurred and must not be used to adjust the feed mill.

Assistance with feed formulation is available from feed suppliers, consulting nutritionists and Alberta Agriculture swine specialists or monogastric nutritionist. Feed analyses are being done at many private laboratories throughout Alberta or at the Agricultural Soils and Animal Nutrition Laboratory in Edmonton.

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April 28, 1986

For immediate release

Revised farm record book available from Alberta Agriculture

The economic downturn in agriculture is challenging producers to review production costs, production methods and marketing efforts more carefully than ever. A solid record keeping system is required to do this job. Revisions to the publication, "Income and Expenses - Basic Records for Alberta Farmers", have been made to meet this challenge. The new record book can be picked up at any Alberta Agriculture district office.

Since its introduction in 1979, "Income and Expenses - Basic Records for Alberta Farmers" has been popular, says Alex Ostapiuk, farm management economist with Alberta Agriculture. One of the reasons for this success is its straightforward and efficient method of recording cash inflows and outflows. The uncomplicated format of "Income and Expenses" remains basically the same in the revised edition except that additional columns have been provided. Two more columns have been added to the expense section, permitting 23 expense accounts. The addition of nine columns to the income section brings the number of income accounts to 17.

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(Cont'd)

Revised farm record book available from Alberta Agriculture (cont'd)

Mr. Ostapiuk says that while the reporting of cash inflows and outflows provides a good deal of the data needed to prepare a tax return, this information does not clearly indicate the performance of the farm business. In fact, he says, it is quite likely that cash inflow and outflow will not reflect the farm profit or financial position in any way. Two financial statements that indicate the profitability and financial condition of the farm business have been included in the revised edition of "Income and Expenses".

These statements are the Balance Sheet and the Net Farm Income Statement. While these two reports require very similar inputs, they provide very different financial information. A balance sheet indicates the financial position of the farm business at a specific point in time. A net farm income statement indicates the profitability of the business over a period of time, usually the business year.

There are many uses of the information that these two statements provide. Most importantly a crystal clear representation of the state of the business and how it is performing is made. Any possible problem areas can be dealt with, which otherwise may go undetected.

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Revised farm record book available from Alberta Agriculture (cont'd)

Inventory information is required in order to complete the Balance Sheet and Net Farm Income statements. Inventory worksheets are provided in the record book to assist in organizing this information. The worksheets include columns to record beginning and ending inventories of farm production, listings of land, buildings and machinery, and farm liabilities. Brief guidelines are provided to assist users in completing the worksheets and statements. Detailed information on the preparation and analysis of these statements can be found in the "Farm Financial Fitness Package". This publication, as well as many other useful information packages dealing with organizing an office, record-keeping procedures, farm business analysis, tax and estate planning, are available at Alberta Agriculture's district offices.

Record-keeping is not an easy job but the size of the task can be greatly reduced with a consistent and organized approach," says Mr. Ostapiuk. "Furthermore, a good record-keeping system can be an invaluable source of information that will be the basis for many management decisions. Remember -- make your records work for you, rather than you working for your records."

"Income and Expenses - Basic Records for Alberta Farmers" is available to Alberta farmers from the farm business management branch, Box 2000, Olds, Alberta, TOM IPO; and Alberta Agriculture district offices.

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Revised farm record book available from Alberta Agriculture (cont'd)

Any comments or suggestions about the revised record book can be directed to: Alex Ostapiuk, Farm Business Management Branch, Box 2000, Olds, Alberta T0M 1P0, or telephone 556-4235.

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April 28, 1986

For immediate release

Hardy plants for Alberta

Which apple should I grow? Which juniper will survive our winters? What perennials can I grow? If you find yourself asking these and many other similar questions, then the Alberta Horticultural Guide is the publication you need, says Betty Vladicka of the Alberta Tree Nursery and Horticulture Centre.

This publication, produced by Alberta Agriculture, provides the home gardener with information on the horticultural plants suitable for Alberta. It contains recommendations on the types of vegetables to grow, which trees and shrubs are hardy, and what bush and tree fruits are suitable. There are also lists of recommended annual and perennial flowers. In addition to the lists of recommended plantings, the home gardener will also find basic information on how to grow these plants.

The Alberta Horticultural Guide (Agdex 200/01) is updated every three years, incorporating the results of horticultural research from across the province. The newly revised edition is available, free of charge, from garden centres, Alberta Agriculture district offices, and the Publications Office, 7000-113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6.

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April 28, 1986

For immediate release

Using sulphur fertilizers

Sulphur deficiency, a soil problem common to many Alberta producers, can be remedied through the application of sulphur fertilizers.

There are two kinds of sulphur fertilizers: those which contain sulphate-sulphur and those which contain elemental sulphur. Crops take up only the sulphate form of sulphur making sulphate-containing fertilizers immediately available to plants. On the other hand, elemental sulphur must be oxidized to the sulphate form by soil microorganisms.

"This may take weeks or even months depending on soil conditions," says Don Laverty, special projects coordinator with Alberta Agriculture's soils branch. " The amount of elemental sulphur that is converted to the sulphate form depends on its composition, fineness, method of application and the soil moisture and temperature."

Mr. Laverty reports that research in Alberta has shown that elemental sulphur, either as pellets or mixed with bentonite clay (90 per cent sulphur), slowly converts to sulphate. About five per cent may be converted in the first growing season after application. Urea-sulphur (20 per cent sulphur), where finely divided sulphur is held within the

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Using sulphur fertilizers (cont'd)

urea granule may convert up to 50 per cent within the first year. A solution of "flowable-S" (52 per cent sulphur) containing fine sulphur particles may also convert about 50 per cent in the first year after application.

Elemental sulphur converts more slowly to sulphate when applied in bands than when broadcast and incorporated. With fall and early spring application the conversion to sulphate-sulphur is somewhat more rapid than at seeding time. The use of higher rates of elemental sulphur may provide sufficient sulphate-sulphur to meet crop needs on some sulphur deficient soils. However, for those sulphur sources where only five per cent is converted in the first year, increasing rates may not be the best solution.

A soil test is the best method of determining whether soils are sulphur deficient. A rapid soil test is available through private soil testing labs.

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April 28, 1986

For immediate release

Economics of fertilizer use in 1986

The recently announced initial crop prices for the 1986-87 crop year has grain producers concerned about the optimum use of crop inputs, specifically nitrogen fertilizer. Lloyd Andruchow, an agricultural economist with Alberta Agriculture, says that an effective fertilizer decision will be influenced by crop response data, expected crop prices and the cost of fertilizer. Other factors which will be equally important in 1986 are the availability of operating capital and the assessment of risk.

"Although we recognize that crop yields depend on the combination and quantity of the other crop inputs, we have focused on the yield response to nitrogen," says Mr. Andruchow.

Average test plot data show that the yield responses for each 10 lb/ac increment of nitrogen added are relatively high initially and the increases in yield get smaller as the total amount of nitrogen added increases. It is profitable to increase yield by adding nitrogen to the point where added returns equal added costs. Individual producers should realize that the optimum level of nitrogen application will vary due to weather and cropping practices.

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Economics of fertilizer use in 1986 (cont'd)

The following table presents crop response data from nitrogen application for barley stubble production in the Thin Black soil zone.

Table 1

Barley Stubble Response in the Thin Black Soil Zone

Nitrogen Applied	Yield Increase		Added Cost	Revenue		
(lb/ac)	Total	Increment	(N at 27¢/lb)	$2.05/bu	$1.75/bu	$1.45/bu
10	4.0	4.0	2.70	5.50	4.30	3.10
20	7.7	3.7	2.70	4.89	3.78	2.67
30	11.0	3.4	2.70	4.27	3.25	2.23
40	14.3	3.2	2.70	3.86	2.90	1.94
50	17.3	3.0	2.70	3.45	2.55	1.65
60	20.0	2.7	2.70	2.84	2.03	1.22
70	22.4	2.4	2.70	2.22	1.50	.78
80	24.6	2.2	2.70	1.81	1.15	.49
90	26.5	1.9	2.70	1.20	.63	.06
100	28.1	1.6	2.70	.58	.10	-.38

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Economics of fertilizer use in 1986 (cont'd)

Nitrogen fertilizer as anhydrous ammonia was priced at $470 per tonne (26¢/lb) and $284 per tonne (28¢/lb) for urea 46-0-0. An average price of 27 cents per pound for nitrogen which reflects fertilizer prices in the spring of 1985 is used in the example. The table shows that increasing the nitrogen application from 30 to 40 pound per acre will result in a yield increase of 3.2 bushels per acre. With barley priced at $1.75 per bushel, marginal revenue, being the difference between the added revenue (3.2 bu/ac x $1.75/bu = $5.60/ac) and the added cost (10 lb N x 27¢/lb = $2.70/ac), is $2.90 per acre.

Accepting the crop response data to accurately reflect the performance of the farm and without taking into consideration risk and uncertainty or the availability of operating capital, it would be profitable to apply increasing amounts of nitrogen fertilizer to barley at all levels with the exception of barley at $1.45 per bushel with 100 pounds of nitrogen.

However, there is risk in not receiving a yield response, especially at higher levels of nitrogen, or not receiving the quality that was expected. Cutting back on the application rate may prevent the producer from achieving the highest possible return, especially if favorable weather conditions prevail, but will provide a safeguard against possible losses. A ratio of added returns to added costs in the range of 1.5 to 2.0 can be considered to provide sufficient insurance against risk and uncertainty.

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Economics of fertilizer use in 1986 (cont'd)

If a ratio of 2.0 is chosen with the price of nitrogen at 27 cents per pound, the following application levels would provide a similar margin:

Barley at $2.05/bu	60 pounds of nitrogen
Barley at $1.75/bu	40 pounds of nitrogen
Barley at $1.45/bu	20 pounds of nitrogen

Individual producers may want to adjust the price of the crop by taking into account the relatively high Western Grain Stabilization payment to producers in 1986 and 1985.

Assuming a 2.0 benefit cost ratio is to be maintained in 1986 with barley at $1.75/per bushel and the same level of nitrogen application (60 lb), the price of nitrogen would have to be 23.7 cents per pound. This is equivalent to $412 per tonne for anhydrous ammonia and $249 per tonne for urea. With initial barley prices for the 1986-87 crop year at $1.45 bushel and applying nitrogen at 60 pounds per acre, the price of nitrogen required to maintain a 2.0 benefit cost ratio is 19.6 cents per pound. Equivalent prices for anhydrous ammonia and urea would be $341. per tonne and $181 per tonne, respectively.

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Economics of fertilizer use in 1986 (cont'd)

Relating crop response data to crop prices enables producers to compare potential gains relative to increased costs. The soil analysis programs at some labs provide yield response data by district as part of the recommendation. The producer must select a rate which will agree with his attitude to risk and his availability of operating capital. Although producers may not have access to yield response data for their farm, they can still improve their fertilizer decision knowing the factors that require consideration.

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